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KUWAIT

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Crown Prince Interviewed on Policies

91AE0482B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
11 Jun 91 p 2

[Interview with Prime Minister Crown Prince Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, by Wahib Ghurab in Kuwait: "We Will Punish All Who Violate the Law, We Will Not Forget Who Stood With Us and Who Against Us"; date not given—first two paragraphs are AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT introduction]

[Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, stressed that any person, whatever his status or nationality, who performs any act contrary to law exposes himself to trial and punishment. In a press interview yesterday, he expressed optimism about future developments in the Gulf region. He stressed the need to strengthen relations and cooperation in all fields—security, economic, political, informational, and cultural—for increased welfare, prosperity, and stability.

The following is the text of the interview with the Kuwaiti crown prince.

[Ghurab] In your recent speech, you called for imposing the maximum punishment on any violator of the law in your country, including officials of the Interior Ministry. Recent days have seen the resignation of a number of Interior Ministry officers and undersecretaries. Does this mean that there is something wrong in the Kuwaiti police system?

[Al-Sabah] I wouldn't say that there is anything wrong in the police system in Kuwait. What happened is that there is a new vision and a new style. Senior officers in the Interior Ministry were given the opportunity to choose between staying or retiring for their private and personal interest. I am happy to say that we in Kuwait fully appreciate the great services these men have given to their country and fellow countrymen.

[Ghurab] Are disturbances to the peace still being committed by Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti elements?

[Al-Sabah] Of course no one should forget that individual episodes have occurred, but I would hope that we do not attribute these episodes to the agreement or knowledge of the government. I have said and I say again clearly and plainly that any person, whatever his status or nationality, who performs any act contrary to law exposes himself to trial and punishment.

[Ghurab] When do you think the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries will be able to reach the stage of developing a joint plan for security arrangements and implementing them in the region?

[Al-Sabah] Answering this question as a citizen and official, I want to say that I am very happy to see that great achievements have been realized in the last few years, boding well for the future of the countries of this region in various areas. We in Kuwait see the need to

strengthen relations and cooperation in all fields—security, economic, political, informational, and cultural—because we believe that by greater cooperation between the countries increased welfare, prosperity, and stability will be guaranteed to them.

[Ghurab] Kuwait recently asked that part of the Egyptian forces remain on its territory. Is this a sign that the difficulty between you and Egypt has ended?

[Al-Sabah] The question is of a military nature, so I ask you to excuse me from answering it or anything relating to military matters, especially under these conditions and at this time.

[Ghurab] All right, but you also asked that an American force of 4,300 soldiers remain. How long will it remain with you?

[Al-Sabah] I do not want to specify the size, concentration, or number of these forces. The question of defending Kuwait's existence and independence is one that is being discussed with our sister countries and friends.

[Ghurab] Countries such as Jordan, which supported Iraq, are now trying to reestablish relations with Kuwait. Is the time right, in your opinion, for restoring these relations? How long will your relations with these countries remain frozen?

[Al-Sabah] There is no contact between official authorities in Kuwait and Jordan. It is difficult for any Kuwait citizen to forget what happened—who accepted Iraq's brutal invasion of Kuwait on 2 August. The wound is still open; every citizen truly feels the pain. That is the first point. Second, no Kuwaiti will ever forget a position supporting and backing Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, just as he will never forget the Iraqi invasion and all those who stood backing Iraq in its invasion of Kuwait.

[Ghurab] Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yasin Radwan [as published] has said that Kuwait is still Iraqi territory. What does this mean to you?

[Al-Sabah] Although Iraq invaded on the morning of Thursday 2 August 1990, it cannot obliterate the fact that Kuwait is an independent country with its own existence and with membership in the Arab League, the United Nations, and all regional and international bodies and conferences. As for Iraq's attempt to obliterate the facts, we say that only the facts will last. Saddam Husayn tried during the occupation to recruit or convince Kuwaitis to accept the occupation. He employed to that end a policy of repression and terror, but he found no Kuwaitis who accepted the occupation or who would agree to cooperate with him. The people of Kuwait loudly proclaimed that Kuwait is an independent country that does accept annexation to Iraq. As for the position of the Iraqi vice-president, we consider it a another clear sign of Iraq's ambitions, not only in Kuwait, but in all the countries of the region. The answer to this statement is the cohesion of the peoples of this

region and the stand that emerged during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. This courageous stand marked by clarity and frankness must continue, and cooperation must increase in all fields, particularly the security and military fields.

[Ghurab] In the wake of reestablished Saudi-Iranian relations, how do you view future relations of the GCC countries with Iran?

[Al-Sabah] We have followed the visit of the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, to Iran and his meeting with the Iranian president and senior officials. We have followed the good results this visit has achieved. We welcome these steps, for they bring the countries of the region closer together and open doors for cooperation with the Gulf countries in various fields. Iran is a neighbor in the region. Along with it, we all are striving to establish security and stability. Cooperation between us in various fields must be the watchword.

[Ghurab] Do you support giving Iran a military role in security arrangements?

[Al-Sabah] The subject is premature. It needs to be studied by fellow GCC foreign ministers to arrive at a formula or strategy to develop these ideas. What I will say in reply to this question is that we in the region must cooperate to provide the region greater stability and to establish security.

[Ghurab] The opposition has called the October 1992 date set for parliamentary elections in the country an attempt by the government to gain time.

[Al-Sabah] I want to answer this question clearly and frankly. When some fellow Kuwaitis met in Jiddah on 10 October 1990, we agreed at the meeting that the priorities were liberation, restoration of the legitimate government, and return of the people of Kuwait. We have in fact adhered to these measures. One of the promises was to adhere to the 1962 constitution. Everyone listened to the speech of the emir of Kuwait, which he gave during the last ten days of Ramadan, stating that parliamentary life would be restored next year. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad again spelled things out last week. He announced that elections will take place in October 1992. Some citizens have their own views or ideas. However, I think that by setting October 1992 as the date for new parliamentary elections, the emir of Kuwait has put an end to argument, misinterpretations, and rumors.

[Ghurab] Many people are complaining that your government has been slow in rebuilding Kuwait. What is the reason for this?

[Al-Sabah] My answer is that there is safety in caution.

Information Minister Criticizes Palestinians

NC2506202791 (*Clandestine*) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Commenting on the reports carried by some world media organs citing statements [words indistinct] Palestinian groups and their other suspicious tools [words indistinct] of practicing terrorism against the Kuwaiti leadership and people, Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has said that the State of Kuwait regrets the level to which some Palestinian organizations have stooped in threatening terrorism against the Kuwaiti leadership and people. The whole world and the sons of the Palestinian people themselves know that Kuwait has always taken a noble Arab stand of support on the Palestinian issue and has given it much material and moral aid. This support stems from the conviction of the Kuwaiti leadership and people that the Palestinian issue is just and the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination.

The information minister stressed that these terrorist threats do not serve the Palestinian cause and certainly do not lead to Palestine's liberation. The sons of the Palestinian people themselves already have realized how much damage terrorist tactics have done to their cause.

Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub said: It was not surprising to see the suspicious media organs continue their misleading campaigns against Kuwait's beneficial and just course. Everyone knows that the media encouraged Iraq's criminal aggression against Kuwait and its people and blessed its continued transgression and [word indistinct]. The objectives of this spiteful campaign and its financial backers are no secret to anyone.

The information minister added: It is really regrettable that dissenting voices—which maintained a loathsome silence throughout the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait—today are defending, they claim, human rights in Kuwait when they themselves directly took part in violating the Kuwaitis' human rights and those of the honorable residents in Kuwait during the catastrophe of occupation and even participated without any feelings of remorse in the destruction of all Kuwait's achievements of the good years.

Dr. al-Ya'qub stressed that the people who protested the sentences recently passed by Kuwaiti judges against those who collaborated with the criminal Iraqi regime have forgotten or pretended to forget that it was this very same judiciary that enabled them to be secure in their houses and that was the wall that protected every Kuwaiti and every person residing on Kuwait's good earth. They have forgotten that, under the influence of emotion, [word indistinct], and recklessness, they themselves executed everyone who collaborated with the [Israeli] occupation forces without trial or even listening to the accused. So why do they deny Kuwait what they have permitted themselves?

The information minister stressed that everyone is aware that all those accused of collaborating with the criminal Iraqi aggression were given every legal means to defend themselves in accordance with Kuwaiti law. All the trials were conducted before specialized international organizations as well as the world media, which reported the proceedings of these trials to all countries without censorship or supervision. If this shows anything, it demonstrates the Kuwaiti judges' self-confidence and the general confidence in the Kuwaiti justice system, which is indisputably a respected and civilized system, not only in the Arab arena but throughout the world.

The information minister added: The Kuwaiti leadership and people that stood up to aggression and sacrificed the blood of their best youth for the sake of Kuwait have not and will not be affected by this nonsense, because the reckless threats made by some poisonous groups of mercenaries and terrorists will not frighten Kuwait's leadership and people. These threats will not deter them from continuing along Kuwait's chosen path with the blood of its martyrs, the suffering of its prisoners, and the steadfastness of its people against aggression. Let anyone who has sickness in his heart or who has been afflicted by [word indistinct] know that every drop of blood [words indistinct] who was martyred for the sake of Kuwait and that every drop of sweat and moment of suffering our prisoners endured in protecting the glory of Kuwait, and, above all, the Kuwaitis' faith in God and the justness of their cause will form a wall that protects Kuwait from these suspicious groups and will make all Kuwaitis rally around their wise leadership to reach the desired shore of safety and to protect the State's legal status. For the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. Verily speaks the Almighty. [Koranic verse]

AL-HAYAH Poll on Foreign Policy, Palestinians
91AE0482C London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 91
pp 1, 4

[Article by Hamid al-Jasir: "Kuwaitis in AL-HAYAH Poll: Breaking Relations With Countries That Backed Iraq"]

[Text] It goes without saying that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the subsequent bloody events, actions, and tragedies left behind by the occupation forces, Arab reverberations of the events, and the differing international positions dealing with the situation have left a very deep impression in the minds of Kuwaiti citizens, both those who were trapped by the occupation and those who were abroad. (Details of the poll are on page 8.)

The effect of this earthshaking event penetrated the deepest feelings of Kuwaiti citizens and struck at the firmest axioms in the Kuwaiti mind. Kuwaitis found themselves reconsidering previously uncontested axioms, such as Arab nationalism, the Palestinian cause, and the issue of foreign military presence on Arab land. To what extent have these axioms changed? What new

vision do people have of how their country and its relations with others ought to be after the liberation of Kuwait?

This is what AL-HAYAH tried to learn by a poll to record changes in Kuwaiti public opinion about Kuwait's Arab and international relations.

The poll was conducted in Kuwait City in recent weeks in cooperation with the Future World Society, Arabian Gulf Branch. This scientific society for future studies, which is headquartered in Washington, D.C., provided a scientific analysis of the results of the sample.

The poll surveyed a random sample of 406 Kuwaitis from different areas of the capital, in families, government offices, and some public places. Sixty percent of the sample were men and 40 percent were women. They included students, employees, businessmen, politicians, housewives, and retired persons.

The poll aimed at determining public opinion trends on Arab and international issues after the liberation, discerning the effect of the Gulf crisis in the ranks of the Kuwaiti people, and casting light on the amount of retreat in Arab nationalist thinking following the crisis.

Here are the questions that the poll contained, along with the percentages of choices by participants.

1. Do you support Kuwait's resuming diplomatic relations with Iraq? (Response—percentage of individuals sampled who chose it:)

- A. I absolutely do not support it.—73.5 percent
- B. I support it if the regime changes.—21 percent
- C. I support it after reparations and guarantees.—5.5 percent
- D. I support resuming relations soon.—0 percent.

2. Do you support breaking relations with the Arab countries that stood with Iraq? (Response—percentage who chose it:)

- A. I definitely support it.—61 percent
- B. I support it if they do not acknowledge their error.—20 percent
- C. I support lowering the level of relations.—18 percent
- D. I do not want to break relations.—1 percent

3. Rank the following countries in terms of priority for boycotting: Sudan, Algeria, the PLO, Yemen, Jordan, Mauritania, and Tunisia. (Priority—choice:)

- A. PLO (first)—74 percent
- B. Jordan (second)—64 percent
- C. Yemen (third)—55 percent
- D. Sudan (fourth)—46.5 percent.

4. Do you think Kuwait's membership in the Arab League brings the country gains or guarantees? (Response—percentage who chose it:)

- A. I do not think it does.—48.5 percent
- B. I think it has brought some limited gains.—46.5 percent
- C. I think the gains have been great.—5 percent.

5. Do you still believe in the idea of Arab unity? (Response—percentage who chose it:)

- A. I no longer believe in it.—66 percent
- B. I support it with reservation.—31 percent
- C. I am still devoted to it.—3 percent.

6. Do you think the Palestine cause is the Arab nation's main central issue?

- A. I do not think it is.—42.5 percent
- B. There are Arab issues equal to it in importance.—20 percent
- C. Palestine is the main central issue.—37.5 percent.

7. Do you accept the principle of recognizing Israel for the sake of peace?

- A. I certainly do not accept it.—48 percent
- B. I accept whatever the Palestinians accept.—12.5 percent
- C. I accept the principle.—39.5 percent.

8. What guarantees do you want for Kuwait's external security?

- A. Military agreements with major Western countries.—35.5 percent
- B. Military agreements with major Arab countries.—3 percent
- C. Military presence by major Western countries.—33.5 percent
- D. Military presence by Arab countries.—2.5 percent
- E. Some form of unity with the GCC countries.—17 percent
- F. Strengthening local military capability.—8.5 percent.

9. Do you support Kuwait's continued budgeting of part of its income for foreign aid?

- A. I do not support it at all.—25 percent
- B. I support it, but at a lower level.—20 percent
- C. I support it for those who stood with Kuwait.—55 percent
- D. I support continuation of the previous policy.—0 percent.

10. Do you support continued Kuwaiti charity to help the poor and needy in the Islamic world?

- A. I support it, but only in the local region.—16.5 percent
- B. I do not support it for peoples who supported Iraq.—35 percent
- C. I support continued charitable activity as in the past.—30 percent
- D. I support expanded charitable activity.—18.5 percent.

11. Rank the following Arab heads of state according to the strength of their support for the Kuwaiti cause: Husni Mubarak, Zayid bin-Sultan [Al Nuhayyan], Fahd bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Hassan II, Hafiz al-Asad, Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi.

- A. Fahd bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz—76 percent
- B. Zayid Al Nuhayyan—16.5 percent
- C. Husni Mubarak—5.5 percent
- D. Hafiz al-Asad—2 percent.

12. Rank the following foreign heads of state according to the strength of their support for the Kuwaiti cause: Francois Mitterrand, Mikhail Gorbachev, John Major, George Bush, Turgut Ozal, Margaret Thatcher.

- A. George Bush—80 percent
- B. Margaret Thatcher—75 percent
- C. John Major—74 percent
- D. Francois Mitterrand—42 percent.

Interior Minister on Current Security Measures

PM1206140891 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Jun 91 p 3

[Nabil al-Khadr report on interview with Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah; place and date not given—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah has announced a comprehensive reform of the security structure and the reshuffling of some leadership positions in order to keep pace with developments and events. He revealed a new employment law designed to avoid the errors of the past, achieve security, and avert difficulties and obstacles. He pointed out that the issue of granting residence permits to expatriates is being studied thoroughly in order to avoid negative developments and that the registration of non-Kuwaitis at security centers is intended to enable the ministry to draw up views and compile statistics for the purpose of the new employment law.

He urged citizens and those residing in the country to surrender their arms, indicating that punishments will be severe and that the law will be implemented resolutely and without favoritism.

Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud said in an exclusive interview with AL-ANBA' that the new passports will arrive at the end of next month and that the new police uniforms will be issued in August. [passage omitted]

He also said that there is security coordination among the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, and Syria. We have never stopped exchanging information about all those wanting to harm our country. As for those who collaborated with the Iraqi occupation forces and fled the country, Kuwait will take special measures to pursue them and bring them to justice and punish them for the crimes they have committed. He said that the Interior Ministry maintains a record of the names of people whose entry into the Kuwait is undesirable. They are

stored on special discs, so there is no fear of these people's infiltrating the security system.

Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud emphasized that Kuwait does not pursue a policy of repression and terror, and that if it did, the states of the world would not have stood by it. This, because its policy is known to all, and it is a principled state.

The law is applied to everyone without discrimination or favoritism, and whoever commits any actions—regardless of the type or scale of these actions—will be arrested immediately.

The interior minister denied that the security authorities could have singled out a particular nationality from among the residents, describing such rumors as mere fabrication. He did say, however, that a few ill-intentioned people who have broken the law have been arrested, interrogated, and referred to the public prosecutor's office. This, because the police's responsibility is to strengthen the pillars of security and to ensure citizens' stability and security, not recklessness and scorn. We will never be lax in applying the law to all wrongdoers and offenders, of whatever rank or status. This, because Kuwait is known for its adherence to laws and justice, and every defendant is innocent until proven guilty. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud pointed out that there have been no military stipulations with regard to the withdrawal of arms, but there are laws regulating the possession of arms. Whoever fails to hand over his arms will be subject to penal legislation and to the law concerning the possession of explosives. The crime of possessing arms will be classified as a military crime and the perpetrator will be referred to a military court.

He indicated that punishment will be severe and that the law will be implemented resolutely and without favoritism. [passage omitted]

With regard to PLO allegations about the torture of the Palestinians and the tightening of the noose around their necks, he said: Two days ago I met with a Palestinian people's delegation representing the Palestinian community in Kuwait. The meeting dealt with the Palestinians' conditions. The community's representatives expressed their appreciation of the government's efforts to stabilize security and to provide dignified employment and earning opportunities for all honest residents.

Unfortunately, there is an unjust defamation campaign against the Kuwaiti people launched by some groups and quarters that collaborated with and supported the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

Minister Notes Security Situation 'Under Control'

JN3006112791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT
30 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jun (WAKH)—Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Sabah has stressed

that the security situation in his country is under control, and that there are no human rights violations in Kuwait.

In an interview published by AL-ITTIHAD today, he said that his country applies law and respects legitimacy, and will not allow violations under any circumstance. He pointed out that the government's priority in applying security measures is now in gathering arms from Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis by no later than Tuesday.

The Kuwaiti minister denied the existence of so-called armed militias in Kuwait. He said that this term was circulated by Western news agencies but is nonexistent. However, he said that many people—whether Kuwaitis or other nationalities—have weapons and ammunition that came from the Iraqi aggression, and that he is currently working to gather them from all people.

Release of Prisoners Top Council Priority

91AE0464B London SAWT AL-KUWAIT AL-DUWALI
in Arabic 3 Jul 91 p 2

[Interview with Rashid 'Awad al-Juwaysri, vice-president of the Kuwaiti National Council by 'Abdallah al-Shamari; first nine paragraphs are SAWT AL-KUWAIT AL-DUWALI introduction; place and date not given]

[Text] KUWAIT—National Council Vice-President Rashid 'Awad al-Juwaysri has confirmed that the Council will continue its meetings without recess this year, beginning from the 9th of this July, thus working through its summer break. In an exclusive interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT, he said, alluding to detainees held by the Iraqi regime, that the release of Kuwaiti prisoners would have top priority on the Council's agenda.

Al-Juwaysri indicated that Council members were now busily working on a roster of urgent priorities affecting Kuwaiti society and individuals.

He emphasized the security experience of Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hammud; security has begun to stabilize significantly despite the immensity of the task, and he promised that the National Council's Security Subcommittee would have a positive role in discussing sticking points, and identifying areas of weakness.

The Council vice-president said that "the Iraqi regime may have destroyed many of our economic facilities but it was not and will never be able to destroy the spirit of Kuwaiti economists and businessmen; indeed we have even greater resolve and aspirations than before." He pointed out that some National Council members had told the Minister of Commerce that the phenomenon of "commodity greed" was on the rise in Kuwait's markets; some merchants new to the market were taking advantage of supervisory negligence. He said that the minister had promised them that the phenomenon would be curbed soon.

Al-Juwaysri said that the Foreign Subcommittee, which is to be reconstituted after the Council's inaugural session, would have a clearly defined view of some of the countries which supported the aggressor or acted as bystanders.

Al-Juwaysri indicated that the Council would reelect the subcommittees that had been convened before the Council's first session, among them the media subcommittee, made up of a large number of prominent media specialists and journalists. He ascribed the government's slowness in implementing some of the council's decisions to the huge accumulation of priorities after the invasion, but he called upon the relevant ministers to redouble their efforts so that life might return to normal.

The Council vice-president reassured citizens who had suffered losses that public life would bring about many positive developments in the very near future, and that the council was vigorously pursuing this issue. He indicated that many concepts and proposals would be made regarding speedy compensation.

The text of the interview with the vice-president of the National Council follows:

[Al-Shamari] His highness the emir has set July 9 for the convening of your council. Will the sessions continue through the summer break?

[Al-Juwaysri] As you know, our beloved country is enduring unnatural conditions as a result of the barbarous invasion of the irresponsible Iraqi regime, and there are a great many negative after-effects which require radical treatment so that life can return to where it was before August 2, 1990. In order to do that, the sessions will, in principle, meet consecutively. On top of that, the Council members have announced their willingness to meet with no recess—that is, with no summer break—in order to take part in the measures the country needs, in light of the conditions imposed on everyone.

Prisoner Release

[Al-Shamari] What are the most pressing matters requiring the ministers' attention, which consequently will receive urgent status?

[Al-Juwaysri] At the top of the Council's agenda will be the release of our prisoners held by the criminal Iraqi regime, and looking after their welfare after that. The huge number of problems left behind by the aggressors is no secret to you, and priority will be given according to importance. Every state and private installation in the country sustained damage, as well as ordinary citizens to some extent. They have innumerable problems stemming from the event itself, and I would not be giving away a secret by saying that the Council members are now busily working on a roster of urgent priorities which will be accorded urgent status in the Council's upcoming sessions. We are optimistic, and confident in the ability

of the members of the government, and first and foremost his highness the crown prince, the prime minister, to overcome difficulties and surmount obstacles.

The Great Security Problem

[Al-Shamari] It is well known that the aggressor regime left a heavy legacy of problems that the Kuwaiti people had never expected. Do you think that the security question is the worst of these? What is the role of your council in dealing with this important factor?

[Al-Juwaysri] Yes, the security problem is vast, and must be at the top of the Council's priorities, and I might agree by saying that the Interior Minister, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hammud, has lessened its effects thanks to his long security experience. He was able to deal with the immense volume of security problems created by the aggressors, and, as you know, the security situation has improved, and is even satisfactory, if you compare it to the situation immediately after the liberation.

Also, the Council will form a security committee, and I hope it will be able to play the positive role planned for it in its own security mission to discuss the problems and produce fitting proposals.

Our Economy Will Come Back With a Will

[Al-Shamari] Shortly before the occupation, the Kuwaiti economy began a gradual expansion; then the invasion put an end to all signs of that resurgence! What is the Council's role in this regard?

[Al-Juwaysri] Actually, as long as there is true coordination between the involved authorities within the government and the Council and an active economy in the country, and as long as all parties work for the benefit of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti economy, nothing will be impossible—with such true solidarity. Kuwait was able to build its economic structure in the past thirty years; the aggressor was able to destroy some of the assets of the sectors, but he was unable to destroy the spirit, resolve, and challenge in the souls of Kuwaitis in general, or of the economic sector in particular. So I am absolutely certain that the Kuwaiti economy will come back even better than predicted.

We in the National Council will be the right hand of all sincere Kuwaitis who are looking to rebuild their country's institutions as quickly as they hope.

[Al-Shamari] After the invasion, the problem of price gouging on most basic consumer goods, especially foodstuffs, was remarkable. Is this a significant burden on heads of households? What will be the role of the Council in solving this problem?

[Al-Juwaysri] We have not overlooked this. I think that some of my colleagues have told the minister of commerce about this problem and the minister promised them that he would work on stopping these infractions with all possible speed because of their direct ill effects on a wide sector of citizens and residents alike.

The Foreign Subcommittee

[Al-Shamari] The occupation of Kuwait, of course, unmasked several countries and other parties, and revealed certain truths. Do you think that the basic precautions taken by the Kuwaiti government in dealing with those parties are sufficient?

[Al-Juwaysri] First of all, we are unhappy that things have come to this pass. We are a country whose moderate policies are known to all, whether fraternal Arab countries, or Islamic, or friendly countries. The politically moderate history of Kuwait is built on mutual respect for everyone, and this is nothing new, but the huge catastrophe our country suffered has made us reconsider, and we are above all wary of yesterday's brother and friend, as a result of what happened; this is my personal point of view, and I also think that our country is able, with God's help, to deal with these problems with vision and reason, as we always have done! Our Council will have its role in setting up future relations, with others, through the membership of the Foreign Subcommittee, which will be reconstituted after the inaugural session of the Council on the ninth of this month.

[Al-Shamari] As long as we are talking about the council's subcommittees which already convened in the first session—is the intention to keep them, as the result of the present circumstances, or to reconstitute them? Are you working towards strengthening the media subcommittee in view of the intense propaganda war Kuwait is being exposed to?

[Al-Juwaysri] Yes, the members of the specialized subcommittees will be reelected, as is customary; that will be after the inaugural session of the Council.

To answer your second question, the Council's media subcommittee will include well-known media people, in the fields of information and journalism, and it will be the Council's right to strengthen it, in accordance with the demands of the public good, especially in the unnatural conditions Kuwait is enduring after the criminal invasion.

Accumulated Problems

[Al-Shamari] Some people think members of government have been slow to settle and implement vital decisions. What do you say to that?

[Al-Juwaysri] The accumulation of many problems—of about equal importance to citizens—all at once, as a result of what happened, has made things move slowly, to some. Here I am not blaming citizens who see this aspect of those with private or public needs, but I want to clear up some of the confusion which might make one quick to judge or form an opinion. Even so, the members of government should work harder so that urgent matters will not get lost in their desk drawers, especially matters which relate to the large sector of people in Kuwait, until we succeed in rebuilding our country in record time, and

erase traces of the destruction the aggressor left behind. The Kuwaitis can do this; we have to cooperate seriously and sincerely, and so sacrifices, in time and patience, are essential.

[Al-Shamari] Most if not all citizens are waiting with waning patience for compensation from the government, to repair their homes or commercial interests. So far the government has not even set a final date for that. What is the Council's role in following up and implementing this objective?

[Al-Juwaysri] For your information, this question is on the minds of many of the Council members, and more than one of them have submitted, or rather prepared, proposals on the reason for the serious delay on this matter which is of great importance to many citizens who sustained harm from the barbarous Iraqi invasion. Thus the matter will take its place among the Council's priorities, which the members are busy dealing with now in preparation for discussions with the relevant ministers during the upcoming sessions, God willing, and at this juncture I would like to reassure everyone that matters will progress as everyone hopes they will, and in the very near future.

Justice Minister on POWs, Martial Law, Legal Issues

91AE0481B London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Jun 91 p 2

[Interview with Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Sammar in Kuwait by Madi al-Khumays; date not given: "Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs: POWs Are Our Highest Priority; 127 to be Repatriated Shortly. Martial Law Ends Today; Pending Cases Sent to Appropriate Courts"]

[Text] Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Sammar, minister of justice and legal affairs, said that martial law will end in Kuwait next Wednesday and that the state of emergency will not be extended. The minister emphasized that martial cases that are still pending when the state of emergency ends will be returned to the prosecution for referral to the appropriate courts.

The minister of justice also said that 127 POWs—Kuwaiti army personnel of undetermined nationalities—will be released shortly from Iraqi administration prisons. He emphasized that the POW issue is of the highest priority for leaders of the country and for all officials of the state and its agencies.

Al-Sammar said that His Royal Highness the crown prince and prime minister will chair a council of trustees, ordained by a decree from the prince, whose function will be to honor the families of POWs and martyrs.

The minister, in an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAIT, discussed the issue of Kuwaiti POWs and the efforts to obtain their release and to honor Kuwaiti martyrs and

their families. The minister also discussed the problem of rents and possible solutions.

Following is the text of the interview with the minister of justice and legal affairs.

[Al-Khumays] What 'Id Al-Adha message do you have for the families of martyrs and prisoners of war?

[Al-Sammar] First, my best wishes to all the people of Kuwait on the happy occasion of the feast, may we all be wealthy and well when it rolls around again.

As to the POWs, they lost their freedom in the service of Kuwait for which they made sacrifices, as did the martyrs. No sacrifice is too great for Kuwait which has been good to us and whose bounty encompasses all people.

The POW issue is one of the state's highest priorities and is always foremost in our minds. We are constantly working so that our POW sons may return to the bosoms of their families. The Iraqi administration has generally stalled on handing over the POWs, but we are attempting to coordinate with sister and friendly countries in order to press the Saddam regime for the return of our prisoners.

Information-wise, we established the National Committee for POW and MIA Affairs in order to consolidate official and grassroots efforts to free them.

Before the legitimate government was restored to Kuwait, such efforts were, and still are, carried out by populist movements and organizations, may God bless them. Our hope is that they will all merge into this Committee because it speaks for all Kuwaitis. We hope to avoid duplicity and fragmentation of effort because we all share the common objective of bringing our POWs home and because information efforts and capabilities ought to be unified. The state supports and blesses this effort. Truly, we will not rest until our POW sons return.

[Al-Khumays] Are there any indications that a new group of POWs will be released?

[Al-Sammar] Our envoy in Riyadh cabled yesterday (last Sunday) [23 Jun] that 27 [as published] military POWs of undetermined nationalities will be released shortly from Iraqi regime prisons.

We constantly endeavor to bring our sons, the POWs, back to their families. The National Committee has taken up headquarters at the Shaykhan al-Farsi Hall. The estate of the late Shaykh Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah has volunteered to house the Committee at the headquarters of Shaykh Sabah al-Salim Foundation in the Sabah-al-Salim suburb. This is a large new building that is quite suitable even though the invaders stole the furniture.

The National Committee comprises several subdivisions, including social subcommittees and others for information and public relations. We are also trying to arrange quarters for the Red Cross and can do the same

for the Kuwaiti Red Crescent if it wishes to be near the committee and its executive office that manages its affairs.

[Al-Khumays] How about bedouin prisoners?

[Al-Sammar] We are demanding the return of all prisoners, including bedouins who were taken under the flag of Kuwait and who were members of the police and armed forces. We must ascertain that they were indeed taken prisoner during the occupation.

Military Trials Are Over

[Al-Khumays] Will the state of emergency be extended?

[Al-Sammar] The state of emergency declared 26 March after the liberation of Kuwait and then extended for an extra term will not be extended any further. Martial law will end next Wednesday [26 Jun].

Military tribunals are a function of martial law and will disappear with it. Charges will be pressed in the appropriate courts.

Breaches of state security, both at home and abroad, are being referred to the State Security Court. Criminals charges are being sent to criminal courts and misdemeanors to ordinary courts.

Military tribunals are abnormal measures necessitated by emergency conditions created by the invasion. When the state of emergency expires, cases still pending before military tribunals that have not been adjudicated and finalized through validation by the military governor will be returned to the prosecutors to restate the charges and take them to the appropriate courts.

[Al-Khumays] Have the sentences already been validated?

[Al-Sammar] All sentences have to be validated by the military governor.

[Al-Khumays] Would you comment on the brouhahas surrounding the military tribunals?

[Al-Sammar] That is not true and the issue is self-explanatory. Military tribunals were established under Martial Law No. 22 of 1967 which was approved by the National Assembly.

Furthermore, all [trial] elements are properly legal. The military prosecutor's office was established by decree of the minister of justice and empowered to investigate, gather evidence, and press charges in court. Charges that cannot be proven by the prosecution are reduced or dismissed for lack of evidence or the absence of crime.

In fact, such procedures are 100 percent legally correct. Military tribunals provide all defendants with legal counsel in accordance with the law. No trial is ever held unless lawyers are present.

In any case, I have no comment on Western media reports except to say that those were public trials seen and heard by all. I believe that this is a grave insult to justice and I would like to say that the hearings were conducted in accordance with our laws in Kuwait and that we believe those laws to be proper and fair.

Furthermore, there are additional guarantees. According to law, the military governor is empowered to intervene in the sentence but not in the charges. That is to say, he has the authority to stiffen the sentence, approve it, or reduce it.

In the spirit of justice, His Royal Highness the crown prince has appointed justices of the Court of Appeals to a new office created to review those sentences and ensure that they are properly carried out in accordance with the law. This demonstrates Kuwait's diligence in assuring justice even for those who sinned against it. Such attacks [on the military tribunals] do not merely target the judiciary but rather hope to undermine Kuwait. I see no call for criticism, especially since our trials are held publicly and follow established procedures and the laws of the land.

[Al-Khumays] What is to become of those found innocent? Will they be deported?

[Al-Sammar] Kuwaiti law has dealt with this issue and empowered the minister of the interior to administratively remove any suspect or dangerous individual. I believe that those pronounced innocent will be administratively removed, but this is up to the minister of the interior.

Weapons and Security

[Al-Khumays] How do you see Kuwaiti security in light of this huge quantity of [available] weapons?

[Al-Sammar] Kuwait has been through a crisis and a rebirth. I see law and order taking a stronger hold day after day. I call upon our brother citizens and residents to expeditiously surrender their weapons to officials at the interior ministry. This is in everybody's interest because Iraq has imposed heavy burdens on every home, every street, and every school where it left weapons and explosives. We know and constantly hear about accidental killings caused by children playing or by irresponsible acts. Law and order are undermined by all this and I therefore call upon brother citizens to surrender their weapons and trust the government and internal security agencies. This is my hope and request of the brothers, be they Kuwaitis or residents. Such abundance of arms is abnormal.

[Al-Khumays] Going back to the tribunals. When will the verdicts be carried out?

[Al-Sammar] Jail sentences will be carried out immediately upon ratification by the military governor. Capital sentences, however, require approval by HRH the Amir after they are ratified by the military governor.

SAWT AL-Khumays] What is to become of those jailed prior to the aggression of 2 August 90 and who were released by the invaders?

[Al-Sammar] An decree from the amir addresses this issue and pardons all prisoners except those convicted of premeditated murder and related crimes such as first-degree murder. Those crimes are not pardonable. The pardon covers all other crimes, but protects the rights of concerned officials and families of the victims to take civil action. The families of victims may seek compensation in the courts since the pardon negates only the punishment but does not supersede the basic right to civil relief.

Landlord and Tenants Law

[Al-Khumays] Anything new with the landlord-tenants Law?

[Al-Sammar] In my opinion, question of rentals involves two problems. The first has to do with tenants who have remained in Kuwait but have not paid their rents. The other has to do with locked unoccupied apartments.

The government has decided to leave the first problem to the courts since the issue has not been regulated by legislation. It is my personal opinion that anyone may sue in landlord-tenants court for the rents due him but that is up to him. It is not up to us, as a ministry of justice, to get involved in such matters. It is up to the landlord to sue for rent as of 1 August, as of the day of liberation, or as of any date he chooses. He is free to act. The courts are available and are experienced in diverse issues. Civil law deals with many emergencies and cases of force-majeure. We leave all such matters to the courts.

I personally believe that 50 percent of tenants in Kuwait have settled with their landlords. The courts are available and we, as a ministry of justice, are ready to add more divisions to them if need be. The courts have laws to guide them and the landlords have the right to demand payment of rent. We don't interfere and we don't subject people to controls of our making. We leave this issue to the courts which have the final say and everybody respects that.

The other real problem involves unoccupied apartments, many of which are presently locked. The tenants left the country and their landlords do not know if they will ever return.

I personally believe that Kuwaiti legislators should intervene and I have, in fact, drafted a relevant bill after the formation of a committee composed of judges and representatives of the landlord and real estate federation. The eviction of absentee tenants has been eased and simplified. All a landlord has to do is petition a contingency judge with a brief describing the building, the landlord, and the tenant and containing a copy of the lease. The judge would then grant the petition by initialing it.

To protect the rights of tenants who "may be in the country" against fraudulent landlords, a copy of the order to vacate must be posted on the door to the apartment for a full week. A tenant who remains in Kuwait may then appeal to the judge and the decision would be reversed.

The interests of tenants-in-occupancy have likewise been protected for three months before a sale is consummated.

This bill was drafted by the ministry of justice. The council of ministers' legal committee, of which I am chairman, approved the bill in substance and in text but it remains under study on the council's agenda. I believe it will be examined after the holiday for political considerations and the like, since laws tend to impact divergent interests.

[Al-Khumays] How can those who remain prisoners of war pay their rents?

[Al-Sammar] Landlords must be sensitive to social and humanitarian considerations and must understand that the tenant is a Kuwaiti citizen who sacrificed his life and his freedom for the sake of Kuwait. POWs may also have wives and children who remain in the apartment.

The council of ministers has issued a decree empowering the chairman of the National Committee for POW Affairs to dispense salaries to the families of POWs and to the families of prisoner GCC nationals who worked for the Kuwaiti government or for public enterprises in which the Kuwaiti government is a majority owner. The council of ministers has also charged the minister of justice with regulating the manner in which such salaries are to be dispensed, since there may be multiplicity of claims, such as by a wife, children, father, and mother; in which case the minister of justice will coordinate among them and dispense a portion of the salary to each claimant via the ministry of finance.

Every case will be considered on its merits. Should the salary of a POW exceed the needs of his dependents, a portion of it will be saved for him at a bank or at the ministry of finance until he returns. It is my opinion that POW salaries for the previous period (as of 2 Aug) should be retroactively saved for them.

Salaries will be directly dispensed after the holiday, within certain parameters, to any POW dependent that comes forward, be it a wife, parent, or adult son, in order that they may be able to pay their rent.

[Al-Khumays] Any news about the decree on the families of martyrs?

[Al-Sammar] The council of ministers has approved a decree honoring the families of martyrs.

His Royal Highness the amir has enveloped them with his kindness and care and has decreed the formation of a council of trustees to be nominated by the crown prince and approved by the amir. The council will be composed

of six members, to be appointed by royal decree, in addition to the crown prince, who is to be its chairman. It will fall to them to decide who to honor among the families of martyrs and POWs, and the manner in which they are to be honored. For instance, streets, schools, and hospitals will be named after them and they will be given medical treatment abroad. The amir's budget will allocate funds for that purpose.

It will be up to the council of trustees to decide on the names to be included in the roster of martyrs and to determine which families are to be honored.

The trustees are also charged with studying the cases of those who gave their lives for Kuwait and with recommending Kuwaiti citizenship for those worthy of the honor.

Arab Relations

[Al-Khumays] How can we bolster ties with Arab nations?

[Al-Sammar] The Kuwaiti government and the Kuwaiti people will never forget the sister and friendly countries that supported it, especially Saudi Arabia, the GCC countries, Egypt, and Syria. They stood by us to uphold Kuwaiti rights and their role will always be remembered by generations of Kuwaitis.

[Al-Khumays] Any final word for the fatherland and its citizens?

[Al-Sammar] I emphasize to our Kuwaiti brothers that we must stand united and raise a single voice under the banner of the legitimate Kuwaiti authority headed by His Royal Highness the Amir. They must be ever vigilant for the presence of a fifth column in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti people have suffered intensely but they have been loyal to their roots and demonstrated their commitment to their country and to the legitimate authority. The people have struggled, grappled, and suffered from caravans of martyrs and prisoners of war. That is a fact which proves the legacy of the Kuwaiti people if it proves anything at all.

State Security Court Law Amended

LD247123591 London KUNA in Arabic 0915 GMT
24 Jul 91

[Text] Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Ghari 'Ubayd al-Sammar has said that the cabinet has agreed to amend the State Security Court law so that the accused or the state security prosecutor can apply for a court order to attain sufficient guarantees for the accused.

Minister al-Sammar stated in an exclusive interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, published here today, that the amiri pardon includes all original, subordinate, and complementary criminal penalties, but does not include civil rights cases.

The minister pointed out that the cabinet has also agreed to amend some of the leasing law provisions, and he praised the holding of evening sessions, which started last Monday, to consider all leasing disputes.

He said that court officers will receive cases and petitions, in addition to convening afternoon sessions, while all courts will hold legal proceedings in the morning as usual.

Editorial Criticizes 'Arafat

91AE0464a London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Jun 91 p 13

[Editorial by Kuwaiti writer Dr. 'Ayid al-Mana']

[Text] Every now and then the Arab and foreign media report statements or news items informing us that the Palestine Liberation Organization, under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, is plotting revenge against Kuwait and the Kuwaitis because the Kuwaitis decided, after the elimination of the Iraqi occupation, to eliminate from their land the loathesome trash with direct or indirect ties to the regime of Saddam Husayn. It is sad that the Palestinians are at the top of the list, but the Kuwaitis have no choice but to treat the allies and supporters of our enemies the same way we treat our enemies themselves.

However, despite the extensive harm we suffered at the hands of our "fraternal enemies" and their allies, we are not adopting the ways of either Saddam or 'Arafat. For example, we did not erect gallows in advance for those accused of complicity with the invading forces, nor did we assassinate our brothers or friends, then walk in their funeral shedding crocodile tears. And if any Kuwaiti went beyond the law—whether in ignorance or in revenge for a loved one killed by fraternal treachery, or for honor violated by boasters claiming to protect Arab honor—he will not escape legal punishment.

Yasir 'Arafat knows that Kuwaiti justice is impartial, objective, and scrupulous, that it holds to the letter of the law and not to moods, whims or silencers.

If Yasir 'Arafat follows the Kuwaiti press, he will certainly see a practical application of the legal principle that an accused is "innocent until proven guilty." The accused in Kuwait enjoys the right to defend himself, to retain counsel, and to retract any confessions made in police stations; and if his innocence is proven or if there is insufficient evidence of guilt, the judiciary will not impede his rights.

In fact, a number of the accused have been acquitted, and light sentences have been handed down against others.

If Yasir 'Arafat cares about the Palestinians, he should thank God that they were in Kuwait. The accused is innocent until he convicts himself, or solid evidence

convicts him, and whoever has no material evidence against them can regain their material rights and depart for wherever they like.

Surely Yasir 'Arafat knows that it is our right to do without the services of anyone whose services we no longer want or need, or whomever we do not feel comfortable having in our country.

If Yasir 'Arafat really cared about the Palestinian people, he would not have sided with evil against good, and he would not have kept silent about his ally Saddam Husayn's violations of the most basic human rights of the Kuwaiti Arabs. It is beyond doubt that 'Arafat's support for Saddam encouraged many Palestinians to emulate the PLO leadership and step up their mischief against us and support for our invader. Does 'Arafat think that we will embrace someone who rejected us and stabbed us with a smile on his face?

At the popular level, anyone who cooperated with the regime or agencies of Saddam Husayn is an enemy, regardless of his nationality, and this cooperation includes those who kept on working in compliance with the invaders' orders, when the Kuwaitis decided upon and carried out a total civil strike; it includes those who sent their sons and daughters to school, those who danced with delight in the schools and streets at the presence of Saddam, or to condemn the international forces that had massed to liberate Kuwait from odious occupation. And it certainly applies to those who carried arms side by side with the invader, those who turned into spies and informers for Iraqi Intelligence, to guide them to Kuwaiti resistance fighters and military men, who betrayed Kuwaitis; to say nothing of those who took part with the occupying forces in seizing places of business and deserted houses, to "liberate" them of their contents.

Or are these activities insufficient evidence of what we were up against internally?

We believe that had it not been for all the PLO factions' support for the Iraqi regime, not many Palestinians would have taken sides with the Iraqi regime against their Kuwaiti brothers. It was this stance that "trapped" the members of some PLO factions living in Kuwait into showing hostility to Kuwaitis - it was this very stance that "trapped" the silent Palestinian majority into adapting to the Iraqi regime, perhaps thinking that the stance of the Palestinian leadership was calculated to attain guaranteed political ends - surely, at the very least, a Palestinian state - but as usual, the hostile stance towards Kuwait was adopted, as other stances had been adopted in the past, based only on naive prognostications and analyses.

As usual the leadership made mistakes; and the Palestinian people are paying the price of these mistakes with their blood, homes, and subsistence.

It is regrettable that this people did not learn from its past bitter experiences, which its leadership has led them

in and out of with the heaviest losses. This is the leadership that pushed the Palestinians into the Black September massacres in Jordan in 1970 and which has involved them in the Lebanese civil war from 1974 until the Israeli invasion in 1982. This, of course, in addition to the internal wars between the many PLO factions, and the bloody conflicts between competing wings within factions.

Despite the suffering of the Palestinian people in these wars and conflicts into which their leadership led them, and despite the political awareness the Palestinians enjoy, the "disasters and catastrophes" leadership still presides. With past conflicts continuing in areas bordering Palestinian territory, on the pretext of escalating the struggle against the Israeli enemy, and the occasional need to clash with those who constitute stumbling blocks to that struggle, it is not difficult to justify what the Palestinians have suffered: it is a price to be paid on the road to Palestine. But this road certainly does not pass through Kuwait, not even hypothetically, though it does pass, as the late Ahmad Shuqayri used to say, through Amman, Jordan.

So why did the Palestinian leadership support, and many Palestinians and other Arabs applaud, an adventurer who went in the opposite direction, and trampled the corpses, honor, and humanity of Arab citizens?

What arrogant person can claim that Kuwait was ever a stumbling block on the road to liberating Palestine, geographically, politically, militarily or financially? Isn't the opposite true? Or have you forgotten the distinctive role of Kuwait—government and people—in supporting the Palestinian cause in every way—politically, economically, and even militarily?

So there is no palatable or logical excuse to fall for Saddam Husayn's lie of exchanging Arab territory for other Arab territory. And who has no excuse must bear the consequences of his actions.

We are positive that only the spirit of Kuwaiti tolerance should inform Kuwaiti decisions. It is the pan-Arab spirit deriving from the spirit of Islam and its tolerant teachings, and thorough grounding in this spirit makes us confident that those who make Kuwaiti decisions will emulate the Almighty's saying: "Chastisement gives you life, O ye just." And by His saying: "And if you punish, then punish as you have been punished, and your patience pleases Him who is most patient." And certainly His majestic saying "And do not burden the overburdened with more burdens" is never absent from the minds of our country's decision makers.

As to the PLO's threats, we do not minimize the danger, for terrorism is the weapon of the bankrupt, but they will never influence Kuwaiti decision making, whether with regard to the punishment of those whose "involvement" in actions harming national interests has been proven, or to our dispensing with the services of those whose services we no longer need, or whose presence is detrimental to our national security, even indirectly. Yasir

'Arafat surely knows Kuwait's anti-terrorist capability. Many terrorists have carried out terrorist acts; they have tried to sack Kuwait, and suffered a devastating failure, while Kuwait has achieved a victory that has won the admiration of the civilized world for its principled stands.

We are positive that the threats of 'Arafat and his comrades will have no effect on Kuwaiti decisions, as those decisions emanate from Kuwaiti national interests, and are taken by officials careful to express the views and opinions of the Kuwaiti people.

What worries us is that these threats will lead to disasters and will exasperate the Kuwaiti people and its wish to send the subjects of Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn back to the Black September capital, to await a seemingly black future—economically, politically, and socially—for this people which leaves one disaster only to be dragged, by its own leadership, into an even worse one.

No doubt the best service the Palestinian leadership can offer the Palestinian people would be to stop trying to flex its muscles by firing off terrorist threats. Best of all, that leadership could admit its military and political failure and resign, and go away. The Palestinian people will not mourn its passing.

Former Speaker Calls for Active Parliamentary Role

*NC0807120291 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT
8 Jul 91*

[Report by Michael Adler]

[Text] Kuwait's spending billions of dollars on reconstruction without an elected parliament is wrong, the last speaker of the now-suspended Parliament said here Monday.

Ahmad al-Sa'dun was speaking to Agence France-Presse the day before the interim National Assembly, a body which can not pass laws, meets for the first time since a U.S.-led invasion liberated Kuwait in February from seven months of Iraqi occupation.

Mr. al-Sa'dun was speaker of Parliament when it was dissolved in 1986. He claims to still hold this title, since the government failed to elect a new legislative body within two months, as the Kuwaiti constitution requires. "It is a challenge between democracy and dictatorship," said 'Ayid al-Mana, professor of political science at Kuwait University, about the meaning of the parliamentary dispute. He said Parliament can be dissolved, as it was in 1986, but, according to the constitution, general elections should be held in two months. If elections are not held, then Parliament should resume. The ruling al-Sabah family has promised to hold new elections in October 1992, but the opposition of Islamic fundamentalists and powerful businessmen wants the ballot sooner, as it says Kuwait must function with a parliament. Mr. al-Sa'dun said: "From now until elections take

place, important decisions are to be made on the so-called 'reconstruction of Kuwait,' which may cost from \$20 billion to \$70 billion. "This will be carried out without any constitutional supervision, without any parliamentary supervision or control." He said this could lead to corruption. He said there was also concern over security arrangements that are being mapped out to avoid any more aggression from Iraq, and that the Kuwaiti people have a right to express their feelings on this. Mr. al-Sa'dun said that the origin of Kuwait's problems with parliamentary democracy was the ruling family's unwillingness to work with the counterbalance of an active parliament. Parliament has been dissolved twice since Kuwait became independent in 1961. Mr. al-Sa'dun said the government faced a major problem in 1985 when, for the first time, it did not have a majority in Parliament. "In 1985, Parliament started to exercise its real political powers for the first time," he said. It dismissed Justice Minister Shaykh Salman Du'ayj al-Sabah through a vote of confidence and was challenging four other ministers: those of finance, oil, communications and education. "When they saw Parliament trying to exercise real powers, they could not live with it and had to dissolve Parliament and suspend the constitution," Mr. al-Sa'dun said. In 1986, the government said that parliamentarians were abusing their powers and trying to destabilize the political system. Kuwait had security concerns at the time, as the Iran-Iraq war was raging. The National Council, which is to open Tuesday, was set up in April 1990 as a consultative body. It cannot pass laws. In the June 1990 elections, which the opposition boycotted, 50 deputies were elected. Twenty-five additional members, including five government ministers, were appointed by Head of State Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah after the general elections. Kuwait has just begun the process of reconstruction and healing after the Gulf War. While almost 200 of the oil wells set ablaze by fleeing Iraqi troops have been put out, over 500 are still burning.

Editorial Considers Meaning of Democracy

91AE0442D London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Jun 91 p 13

[Editorial by Mubarak al-Mayyal]

[Text] On 29 January 1990, I wrote an article in the AL-ANBA' newspaper under the headline "Kuwait First." The article concerned the events of those days, and it concluded with two verses of popular poetry from the qasida of 'Asma' [the white-footed], which were recited by the unknown Kuwaiti poet. Here, I repeat the two verses to connect between what I said in the past and what I will say today, because today's article bears the same title, which is an extension of what I said in the past. The two verses, in the poem, in which our poet addresses the nation of Kuwait, are as follows:

He displays a cheerful mien, sympathy, and tenderness.
Under his garment is a gleaming dagger for you.

He watches you and leaves you untouched, until you are worn down. Then, he tears out your heart and leaves you lifeless.

Our poet has in mind those whom recent events have uncovered, as is obvious to our discriminating reader. Let us return—and returning is more commendable—to what we previously said, to connect between yesterday and today. We repeat: The democracy that we want today is not the democracy of yesterday, which is the democracy of sectarian, party, tribal, anti-Arab [shu'ubi], or dynastic interests, or the interests of any other affiliation. The democracy which we want today differs from the democracy of yesterday. Before making a detailed presentation of what I mean, let me state that, after the issue of parliamentary life was resolved under the 1962 constitution, we, the sons of the homeland, are entitled to think aloud about which democratic life we should pursue. This question is posed to all people of the homeland without exception or distinction owing to the one-upmanship that we are now seeing in the arena, where slogans are being promoted, starring roles are being attributed, heroic tales are being endorsed, and each and every one, as the proverb says, "is bringing the fire close to his bread [blowing his own horn]." One group claims that it launched resistance operations, another that it provided financing. This party did such and such, and that group engaged in fearless deeds in battle. The expression "murabitun [territorial troops]" has become a monopoly of these groups. The true territorial troops are the people, with all of their sects and groups, who are silently observing and smiling.

These claims are doubtlessly not altruistic, but are for personal gain, which means that old habits die hard.

All of the preceding leads me to speak about the democracy which I have advocated, and which I hope will eventually be adopted. It is the democracy of the teeth of the comb [all of which are of equal size] under the slogan of Kuwait first. Yes to the democracy of equality, the democracy of the teeth of the comb, and no, a thousand times no to the democracy of racism, anti-Arabism [shu'ubiyah], tribalism, sectarianism, dynasticism, and the party. No to the pre-victory/post-victory democracy, in which slogans were promoted before the victory, only to be forgotten and thrown into the wastebasket after the victory. Again, yes to the democracy of a Kuwait for everyone, and no to comparing between Kuwaitis, unless it is based on the measure of their loyalty and sincere devotion to Kuwait and its people.

A Kuwaiti should receive a position based on his knowledge, wisdom, expertise, and correct view. In this way, justice and equality among all men and women without exception will spread. The people of Kuwait have suffered at the hands of a tyrannical occupier who observed no gender distinction among Kuwaitis. The crimes that were perpetrated against the people of Kuwait did not except any group of the Kuwaiti people at all. This is indicated by an examination of the list of names of martyrs. Also, the resistance displayed by the people of

Kuwait was not at all limited to a specific group. Rather, everyone, men, women, the elderly, and children participated in it, each according to his capacity, abilities, and position. This continues to be the truth, and these people should be therefore be given equal treatment in all fields and activities.

A people who has sacrificed life and property does not boast of any act which it undertook, regardless of its enormity. It does not raise its voice saying that such an act is a fearless deed, because one of its traits, which it inherited from its ancestors, is not to boast. Also, such a people does not want a reward for its steadfastness. Nor does it want thanks. It did not act or resist for some aim, but out of loyalty, a sense of duty, sincere devotion, and the return of a favor to the nation of Kuwait, without benevolence or pride. Everything becomes easy in the service of the apple of one's eye, the nation of Kuwait. The people of Kuwait have proven to the entire world that it deserves to live. This position has amazed the world to the extent that a well-known leader stated: Kuwait deserves to be proud of this people, which took a stand against those who occupied its country, a stand that will be recorded in history. Kuwait truly deserves this testimony, which is a symbol that it should be proud of.

Finally, I say to all of my brothers and the people of my homeland, we, all of our groups, including the executive authority, have called for cooperation with sincerity, without any complexes, and with firm confidence in ourselves, so that we can complete the process of stabilizing internal and external security, defend the homeland and its citizens, get the economy moving, and revive activity in the private and public sectors. We have called on ourselves to trust in one other through cooperation and sincerity, so that we attain what Kuwait was before the invasion, so that we can send our children to their schools and our sick to clinics for treatment, and so that our families can enjoy Fridays and official holidays strolling on all of Kuwait's shores without fear or dread of the explosion of a mine or a bomb which was not been removed, and which turns a family's happiness into sorrow. We have called for us to be done with all of these matters and to remove of all of these dangerous materials, with the understanding that the period for doing so will not exceed the period determined by his excellency, the symbol of Kuwait, whom the people has given the helm of the ship, and who has brought us safely to the closest point to a safe shore, despite the flood caused by the violent storms and the strong wind. We are separated from our final destination by only that period determined by his excellency, now that the winds have abated, the waves have died down, and the flood has ended, not to return. At that time, we will welcome the democracy of justice and equality under the slogan of Kuwait first. I hope that everyone without exception will leave our mother Kuwait to breathe a sigh of relief and spend a period of convalescence and recuperation from that barbaric, hateful invasion, so that she can regain her health and vigor calmly without the slightest headache.

Kuwait has suffered enough from a tyrannical occupation unprecedented in history. Are you active??

Journalist Considers Political Future, Democracy

91AE0442E London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10 Jun 91 p 13

[Editorial by 'Ayid al-Manna', a Kuwaiti journalist]

[Text] On Sunday, 5 June 1991, a number of governmental orders and decrees were issued. One of them stipulates the return, in October 1992, of parliamentary life, which was suspended pursuant to a governmental order issued on 3 July 1986.

Disregarding the length of the time period [before the return of parliamentary life], the specification of the date clearly indicates the political leadership's desire to fulfill the promise that it made at the Kuwaiti Popular Conference held in Jiddah in October 1990.

We are certain that elections for the National Assembly will be held at the above-mentioned time, pursuant to the 1962 constitution. This conviction is based on the knowledge that our political leadership honors its word and keeps its promises. Therefore, the Kuwaiti citizen is completely confident that the elections set for October 1992 will be held at that time. If the announcement of the return of parliamentary life, as represented by the National Assembly, is a gladdening announcement, the length of the time period [before elections] detracts from the happiness of some of us. Because we are a people that has become accustomed to openness and to speaking out publicly, it should be said that some of us, perhaps a large number of us, did not expect the date for the next National Assembly elections to be later than February 1992. If the conditions following the removal of the odious occupation require giving priority to reconstruction, the activation of the governmental apparatus, the stabilization of security, the return of citizens who immigrated, and the provision of vital services to citizens and residents, some people nonetheless believe that the presence of the legislative authority would not impede the implementation of these high-priority programs, but would perhaps greatly facilitate successful implementation of them through ongoing monitoring. If holding parliamentary elections this year is considered hasty and involves security risks, there are those who believe that the return of the 1985 assembly would be an acceptable, comprise solution, especially inasmuch as Article 107 of the constitution stipulates that the National Assembly shall regain its constitutional mandate two months after the Assembly's dissolution, and that new parliamentary elections shall not be held. It seems to those who support this compromise that the passage of a four-year period is not sufficient justification for the non-return of the National Assembly. These people cite as evidence the Lebanese parliament, which, despite the end of its legal tenure in 1976, continues to

exercise its legislative role, counting among its achievements approval of the Ta'if document, which was the beginning of the end of the Lebanese civil war.

The government and some political forces clearly differ over the timing of the return of the National Assembly. However, we do not think that this difference will adversely affect the goal on which all agree, which is to resume parliamentary life. Nonetheless, some political forces could call for holding National Assembly elections much sooner than the date set by the governmental order.

We believe that making a call in itself is legal. However, one should realize that this legality does not negate the possibility of some enemies exploiting a popular movement to achieve a political goal or to penetrate through security holes to incite disturbances and cause political instability.

The happiness of the enemies and haters of Kuwait will be greater if the government responds with the same "Arab way" that is customarily used to confront any popular movement. The hateful enemies will certainly not hold back crocodile tears for the Kuwaiti people, which are actually the tears of happiness of one who indulges in malicious pleasure.

However, we hope that it will not be lost on anyone that the Kuwaiti people and its government believe in democratic dialogue that aims to overcome any disagreement or difference of opinion. The democracy in which we believe, and whose continuity we desire, is civilized behavior and ethical practice. A decision to return to such democracy suffices to indicate its deep-rootedness in Kuwaiti society.

Planning Minister on Housing, Reconstruction*91AE0442C London SAWT AL-KUWAYT**AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11 Jun 91 p 2*

[Interview with Planning Minister Dr. Ahmad 'Ali al-Jasar; place and date not given]

[Text] Kuwait—Planning Minister Dr. Ahmad 'Ali al-Jasar emphasized yesterday that the development of the Kuwaiti individual is the practical pivot of planning, and that the government is seeking to create a preponderance of citizens over [non-Kuwaiti] residents in the population.

In an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT, al-Jasar stated that the Iraqi occupation destroyed many of Kuwait's utilities and delayed many development projects. However, it failed to shake society's cohesion and determination to develop and build. He emphasized that the state's plan for the future will concentrate on maintaining the positive behavioral values that emerged during the occupation.

The planning minister spoke about the General Civilian Information Authority, stating that it will play an important role in providing the necessary information and data. He indicated the possibility of a new civilian card being issued this year. The following is the text of the interview with Minister al-Jasar:

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is the most salient feature of the state's plan for the future after liberation?

[Al-Jasar] It is the firm establishment of the positive behavioral values that emerged and took root in Kuwaiti society during and after the occupation. For example, the consolidation of cooperation and cohesion among society's groups, the establishment of a spirit of sincerity and diligence in work to realize the general interest, and self-reliance in performing the many tasks required by society.

The preceding means that the concept of developing the Kuwaiti individual is, and will be, the practical pivot of planning. The method for this development is expressed in a number of policies on education, training, employment, and economic activity.

The coming phase requires the reconstruction and maintenance of the infrastructure of state facilities, such as organizations, institutes, universities, hospitals, roads, and means of communication, so that these facilities are brought back to the level that they enjoyed before the tyrannical occupation.

In the long-range, in addition to building a Kuwaiti individual who is equal to the development process, there will be programs and projects designed to increase production and raise competency in keeping with the policy to use national manpower intensively.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What will be the population composition?

[Al-Jasar] Most countries of the world, be they advanced or Third World countries, are striving for their citizens to represent the majority of residents in them. It is natural that the government would aspire to increase the percentage of citizens in the country compared to percentage of residents, so that citizens form the majority, along the lines of what is followed in the Arab and non-Arab countries.

The tyrannical aggression against Kuwait highlighted the need to address the population composition and give it priority regarding issues now being presented in the arena. The government aspires to make citizens a majority in society to maintain the country's security and stability in the short and long terms. In addition, the destruction and damage that struck the infrastructure of state utilities precludes the possibility of continuing to provide a good level of basic services to a population of the size that existed before the aggression. Therefore, the current situation requires the adoption of several policies and measures conducive to increasing reliance on Kuwaiti manpower and reducing foreign manpower. Such measures include encouraging the adoption of modern, technological means to reduce the need for large amounts of labor, the following of a transitional policy on the summoning of foreign labor that ensures the acquisition of highly competent manpower and the reduction of marginal labor to a minimum, and the optimal utilization of national and foreign cadres.

There is no doubt that the tyrannical aggression led to a more realistic view regarding the population composition in the country. This new situation should be exploited to firmly establish clear foundations and principles for a population policy.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Could you discuss current projects and plans of the Higher Planning Council.

[Al-Jasar] The planning process is effected in a series of stages. It begins with the collection, classification, and analysis of information, the conducting of studies, and the derivation of indicators. This is followed by the formulation of long-range strategies, then a framework for the plan, then the plan itself. The previous steps should also undergo a policy review conducted by individuals possessing professional knowledge of economic and social development affairs and a comprehensive view of the requirements and problems of society. This comprehensive, scrutinizing, view and the harmonization of scientific principles with what all members of society aspire to is the task of the Planning Council. The current composition of the Planning Council enables it to fulfill this role. The council, as is well-known, is headed by his excellency, the crown prince and prime minister. It includes eight ministers closely connected with the planning process and eight competent ministers

representing the private sector. It is obvious that the private sector has a substantial role in implementing development plans.

The Planning Council plays an important role in proposing and studying policies bearing on the development process, such as the population and human resource development policy, the economic policy, and other policies. The council's different committees study matters, which are then discussed in the council. If the council approves, such a matter is then transferred to the cabinet. If it meets with the cabinet's approval, it becomes one of the bases for future plans.

Thus, we see that the planning process in Kuwait is an integrated process in which the planning ministry coordinates with other governmental ministries and authorities, the Planning Council, and the cabinet.

The criminal occupation of our beloved country destroyed many of its utilities and delayed many of its development projects. However, it did not destroy or shake its social cohesiveness and everyone's determination to develop and build. With this genuine determination to continue organized building, the planning agencies, headed by the Planning Council, will play a major role in outlining and recommending economic and social development plans. There is no doubt that the members of the Planning Council will reflect the opinions and beliefs of a majority of society. The crux of the matter is that the Planning Council has a large role in the social and economic building process in the postliberation stage.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is the role of the General Civilian Information Authority after liberation? When will a civilian card be issued?

[Al-Jasar] The authority will, in the coming stage, play an important, vital role in providing information and data needed by specialists, especially because the coming stage will witness the replanning and review of many policies and services, such as the population, health services, and education policies. This requires the availability of precise data and information, so that plans can be closer to reality and the capacity to implement them.

This will impose a greater burden on the authority represented in the rapid registration of citizens, the monitoring of their movements, and the updating of data regarding them.

The authority's regulations are determined by Law No. 23 of 1982 regarding the registration of the population, the monitoring of its movement, and the registration of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, immigration, and changes of address.

The authority's operating methods and procedures will change in keeping with the coming stage: Documentary cycles and the bureaucratic routine will be lessened, and the capabilities of the computer will be exploited as much as possible to increase productivity.

Regarding the civilian card, we hope to issue a civilian card this year after the necessary buildings destroyed by the forces of the tyrannical invasion have been equipped for operations.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Can you discuss the state's general planning policy for the next ten years?

[Al-Jasar] Planning is no longer a luxury in the life of the nation. It extends beyond that to comprise an operating method followed in all private and public organizations. Kuwait decided to adopt this systematic method for organizing its affairs in the past, and it will continue to adhere to it in the near and distant future.

Analysis Probes Economic Future

91AE0442A London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 6 Jun 91 p 13

[Article by Kuwaiti journalist 'Amir Dhiyab al-Tamimi]

[Text] The post-liberation Kuwaiti economy will inevitably differ from the pre-August 1990 Kuwaiti economy. The Iraqi forces that invaded and occupied Kuwait caused significant damage to Kuwait's economic infrastructure. Kuwait's oil installations, whose production is the mainstay of its economy, are now in a difficult state, after having been set on fire intentionally, although an objective appraisal will determine their condition. Also, other installations in Kuwait owned by the government or the private sector were affected considerably by the Iraqi forces' sabotage and pillage activities.

Therefore, Kuwaitis, both the government and individuals, will be bearing significant costs as a result of the occupation. Post-liberation economic activity will focus primarily on reactivating all economic sectors, including the oil sector and all of its branches—production, refining, oil products, and exports.

However, the reconstruction process requires a comprehensive, detailed plan which orders priorities and determines costs in a rational manner, so that costs are not greater than necessary and tasks are performed according to the human and financial capabilities of the Kuwaiti economy. In other words, it is important that costs be financed by Kuwaiti revenues and Kuwaiti savings as much as possible, and that borrowing be restricted to an appropriate minimum, so that the debt can clearly be serviced. Also, the reconstruction process should rely primarily on Kuwaiti human capabilities, and the enlistment of the assistance of foreign experts should be limited to areas of technical expertise that cannot be supplied by Kuwaiti manpower.

Kuwait's postliberation population composition will be among the issues worthy of concern when forming a concept of economic development in Kuwait. Before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, Kuwait's population totalled 2.2 million, including 660,000 Kuwaitis. According to current estimates, due to the occupation, only 0.5 million of this total remain, of

whom 250,000 are Kuwaitis, while an estimated 400,000 Kuwaitis are residing abroad. Of course, Kuwaitis began to return to Kuwait after it was fully liberated from Iraqi forces. They will be the nucleus of the new labor force in the country. However, the main question is: Will they suffice to build Kuwait and restore its modernity, or is it necessary to import manpower previously employed in Kuwait or new manpower needed for reconstruction tasks?

It would no doubt be difficult and impossible to carry out reconstruction works without importing foreign manpower. However, it is better to handle reconstruction operations as independent tasks. In this way, as soon as one task is completed, the foreign manpower imported for that task would be dismissed, and the contractor would be required to evacuate that imported manpower. Regarding tasks requiring workers to remain in the country, it is necessary to ascertain the number of foreign workers needed and to arrange for their presence accordingly, so as to exploit them beneficially.

It might be useful, when concluding contracts with the companies that will be commissioned to perform reconstruction works in different economic sectors, to employ a reasonable number of Kuwaitis, so that they can acquire expertise in their fields. Regarding operations to extinguish oil fires and repair damaged wells, such a condition would be necessary and beneficial, and it would enable us to acquire national expertise in these vital operations, which concern the most important economic sector in the country. Needless to say, the oil sector must have priority regarding the repair of oil installations, wells, collection points, refineries, factories, and other facilities. That will enable Kuwait's economy to begin moving again, in view of the vital role of oil. Also, reviving of the oil sector will determine the country's revenues from different sales of oil export. The economic authorities will then be able to determine the amount of general spending, which will play a primary role in stimulating activity in the other economic sectors. Regarding non-oil sectors in the Kuwaiti economy, serious thought must be given to the nature of the relationship between the private sector and the public sector, inasmuch as it is obvious that the private sector has previously depended—since the export of oil—on general [state] spending in order to develop its capabilities and increase its revenues and savings. Such a relationship is reasonable given that the private sector depends on the government as the largest consumer in the country. Thus, the private sector adjusts its plans according to the volume of general spending. However, the matter goes much beyond that, inasmuch as the government has acquired many of the ownership rights to shares acquired by the private sector in many Kuwaiti companies and organizations, beginning with the oil sector development companies in the mid-seventies after the first oil shock. Such acquisitions increased the government's revenues and provided it with a large surplus, which convinced it of the need to acquire the ownership rights accruing to the private sector from the oil sector.

This situation continued until the government purchased shares of companies registered in the securities market following the crises of 1977 and 1982, which increased the amount of public ownership of a number of industrial and investment companies, commercial banks, and services companies. Naturally, that led to the government's control of many organizations, causing the government to bear unjustified financial and administrative burdens.

Therefore, it is extremely necessary to correct this situation in the light of these exceptional historical circumstances by retransferring ownership of what the private sector can reacquire and thus revitalize economic activity. However, the Kuwaiti private sector must meet the historical challenge and strive to regain its institutional [hidari] role in generating activity. This requires Kuwaiti businessmen to stop investing their funds abroad in the form of investments in the stock market [istimarat musa'arah] or direct investments [istimarat], or through deposits, and to invest a significant portion of their capital in economic facilities and organizations [in Kuwait] expected to yield gains. Despite structural problems, Kuwait's private sector must act to attract national manpower to join organizations which it owns, given that Kuwaitis constituted no more than 4 percent of all workers in the private sector before 2 August. Even then, that modest percentage was concentrated in administrative positions, which are of no importance to production activity. The attraction of national manpower requires a comprehensive review of salary and wage schedules, material benefits, etc.

Turning to another area, the nonoil Kuwaiti economy has subsisted on governmental incentives represented by public spending programs, bankruptcy protection programs, and different indemnifications borne by public funds. Naturally, these artificial programs cannot create brisk, lively economic activity. The matter requires subjecting all economic organizations and units to the laws of the free market and active competition. This means that organizations experiencing a decline in performance should review and improve their performance or announce bankruptcy and leave the market. Such economic laws will improve incentives, develop performance, increase efficiency, provide better goods and services to consumers, and result in the accumulation of capital by organizations or society in a natural manner.

Of course, the coming years will be among the most difficult to face the organizations and personnel of Kuwait's private sector, given that the population is decreasing and organizations are experiencing the circumstances of the change in manpower. However, this also presents an opportunity, because the departure of many marginal organizations that encumber the performance of better organizations in the sectors of such marginal organizations will generate a natural restructuring far from subsidization policies. It would not be useful to take measures to merge economic organizations compulsorily, as is currently being discussed regarding the merger of several commercial banks or investment

organizations. The decision to merge should be left to the owners of these organizations, so that they can decide the matter on purely economic foundations based on the economic laws that govern the market, without any significant intervention on the part of official agencies. In other words, a primary, basic condition for the continuation of a given organization or its merger with another should be the extent to which that merger affects the final performance level. Then, we need to determine the nature of the Kuwaiti economy in the coming phase. We know that Kuwait will continue for a long time to be an oil-exporting state, whether we export crude oil, oil products, or refined materials. However, what are the other elements of the Kuwaiti economy that complement activity in the oil sector? Will Kuwait be a capital-exporting state or a capital-importing state. Then, how will capital be exploited domestically and abroad? Shortly before the occupation, concepts were formed regarding the future of the Kuwaiti economy. Has the time come to review those proposals, which were formulated by the Institute of Kuwait for Scientific Research in cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which lasted for a considerable time? There is no doubt that the effects of the Iraqi occupation necessitate a review of priorities with respect to strategic proposals, given that the current priorities are now different. The Kuwaiti economy, in the reconstruction phase, will require substantial financing, which will be at the expense of Kuwaiti assets invested abroad, especially assets owned by the government. As for the private sector's assets invested abroad, the liquidation and investment of those assets in Kuwait depends on the extent to which organizations and individuals of the private sector are convinced of the benefit of investing in various investment projects in Kuwait, including existing projects, which require reconstruction or restructuring. Therefore, it would be useful to monitor private capital movements to measure the private sector's confidence in the profitability of investing in Kuwait. This confidence will not be achieved until the country's political and economic conditions are stabilized, the performance of different economic sectors is measured, and the state's short-term and long-term plans and population size are ascertained.

To avoid impediments to the development of the Kuwaiti economy, rational dialogue must occur regarding different matters pertaining to economic activity and the many policies that will have an important bearing on economic activity. This dialogue must begin now.

Bank Governor on State of Dinar, Investment

91AE0481A London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Jun 91 p 8

[Article by KUNA: "Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Says Withdrawals of 6,000 Dinars a Month Permitted as of 1 July"]

[Text] Kuwait Central Bank Governor Shaykh Salim 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sabah yesterday discredited reports that the Kuwaiti dinar would be devalued.

He told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that effective 1 Jul, the bank will raise the ceiling on allowable monthly withdrawals from domestic banks from 4,000 to 6,000 dinars per client, or the equivalent in foreign currency.

Had there been any plan to devalue the Kuwaiti dinar, Shaykh Salim said, it would have been affected last March to coincide with the resumption of banking operations. He added that the bank is holding to its long-standing policy of tying the dinar to a basket of currencies. The practice has proven effective over the past 16 years in stabilizing the dinar exchange rate. He pointed out that Kuwait has the best means to regain confidence, maintain price stability, and elude inflationary pressures.

The Kuwait Central Bank governor attributed the recent slight decline in the dinar's dollar price to the sudden and substantial strengthening of the dollar vis-a-vis most major currencies.

It was normal, Shaykh Salim explained, that this would affect the price of the Kuwaiti dinar. He pointed out, however, that the decline in dollar exchange rates was much smaller for the dinar than for certain major European currencies.

He said the dollar exchange rates of the Deutschmark, the French franc, and the pound Sterling declined by almost 10.5 percent compared with a mere 2.6 percent decline for the dinar in the period from 14 Mar to 19 Jun 91.

Dinar Investments

The Kuwait Central Bank governor also pointed out that current Kuwaiti dinar interest rates are higher than those for major currencies, such as the U.S. dollar, enabling investors in Kuwaiti dinars to realize the highest return on their investment while profiting from relative stability in dinar exchange rates vis-a-vis major foreign currencies.

Shaykh Salim said that monetary controls instituted on 24 Mar 91 were necessary in the aftermath of the ruthless Iraqi invasion and were one of the means necessary to confront the negative impact of the repugnant Iraqi invasions on all economic sectors in general, and on units of the banking system in particular. The controls capped cap client monthly withdrawals from their accounts and their foreign currency purchases at 4,000 dinars per individual per month, or its foreign currency equivalent.

Difficult Circumstances

He added that Kuwaiti banks resumed operations immediately after Kuwait was liberated despite the dearth of specialized technicians and the lack of other essential services as a result of downed computers, fragmented

books and accounting systems, and deficient communications networks with the outside world, not to mention severe manpower shortages.

The Kuwait Central Bank governor said he expects foreign exchange controls to last only three months, until 24 Jun 91. Diligent efforts over the past short months have accomplished positive and tangible achievements. However, banking units still need more time to regain the normality they had prior to 2 Aug 90.

Raising the Ceiling

Shaykh Salim said that it has been decided effective 1 Jul 91 to raise the monthly ceiling of 4,000 dinars, or foreign currency equivalent, on client foreign currency purchases or withdrawals from their accounts with domestic banks. The controls are being relaxed thanks to the positive results achieved so far and in order to better serve client interests.

He added that the new controls relax the upper limit on withdrawals for the purpose of paying obligations, as long as such obligations were assumed by the client before 1 Aug 90. The limit will also be relaxed for purposes of medical treatment and education abroad, or to fulfill essential needs such as the purchase of capital goods and supplies.

Shaykh Salim implied that withdrawals and foreign currency purchases that exceed allowable ceilings would be controlled by measures established to ascertain that the purchases are necessary.

The Kuwait Central Bank governor summed up by saying that those controls would remain in effect only until the beginning of next August and that domestic banks were instructed today to honor client requests for foreign currency purchases as of Saturday, 31 Aug 91.

Industrial Bank Chairman Interviewed on Financial Situation

91AE0484A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4 Jul 91 pp 42, 43

[Interview with Industrial Bank Chairman Salih Mahmud al-Yusif by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab and Muhammad Samman; "Industrial Bank of Kuwait Chairman: We Had Obligations of \$360 Million Which We Paid in Full;" date and place not given]

[Text] The losses that plagued Kuwait and its banking system have nevertheless been beneficial in prodding new investment strategies that give priority to reconstruction and to credit for new projects. This strategy, as a whole, affects the banking system by merging banks into larger institutions, by rectifying losses, and by restoring confidence to capital that emigrated after the crisis.

AL-MAJALLAH interviewed Salih Mahmud al-Yusif, chairman of The Industrial Bank of Kuwait, who discussed the bank's strategy during the crisis and in its

aftermath. He also touched on the bank's role in reconstruction and its position on a number of financial and banking issues.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How much of a loss did the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait inflict on the bank?

[al-Yusif] The bank was affected by the invasion but its losses were relative to the distribution of assets. Industrial Bank of Kuwait operations ceased on the day of the invasion and are yet to return to normal.

After the invasion, the committee on Kuwaiti banks, at the invitation of the central bank governor, met continuously in London to review the position of Kuwaiti banks in general in light of developments.

We, as an industrial bank, pursued a clear-cut strategy, discussed with the central bank governor, to meet our obligations to international banks. The objective was to safeguard the reputation of the bank and of Kuwait as a whole. The Kuwaiti banking system enjoys a fine reputation around the world and our transactions with international banks therefore proceeded normally.

Even though fiscal issues are directly impacted by events such as took place in the region, matters continued normally until the invasion on 1 August, despite reports of Iraqi concentrations near our border. I constantly monitored banking activity in Kuwait and inquired whether our international relations with other banks had undergone any changes. Once, we even ordered that the pulse of certain international banks be felt to find out whether they made any observations or issued any instructions regarding our bank, but everything was normal.

After the invasion, we set about fulfilling our obligations by liquidating [cashing in] some of our foreign assets to the extent possible. The Kuwaiti Government warned against Iraqi manipulation of Kuwait's financial institutions and froze the assets of those institutions and their funds to protect them.

In spite of all that, we were able to meet our obligations and we endured in the face of difficult conditions. We opened a London office to handle the sale of many assets in order to meet our accounts payable. No bank to this day, including banks in GCC states, has any claim against the Industrial Bank of Kuwait, which has paid its obligations in full. We were given appreciation and continued cooperation in return.

As a matter of policy, bank managers such as the chairman and the treasurer are now visiting international banks to thank them for their cooperation during the occupation and to identify areas of future collaboration.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How large were your financial obligations?

[al-Yusif] \$360 million, which were paid in full.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Securities collapsed because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Did you suffer any losses as a result?

[al-Yusif] Yes, there were losses, but that is the nature of the market. However, a strange phenomenon occurred during the occupation. The markets regained confidence as the United Nations issued resolutions supporting Kuwait against Iraq and were further reassured by the backing we received from many countries. Then the world succeeded in liberating Kuwait. It is amazing that when a country suffers an incident such as that which involved Kuwait, everything generally collapses. Everyone believed that liberation was inevitable, and that is why the markets kept climbing higher even as the air war was launched.

In order to meet our obligations, we carried out a sort of liquidation under difficult conditions in difficult times. We suffered some losses as a result because liquidation is not a type of securities investment, but is loans to certain countries. All of this is a function of market conditions and of the economies of those countries themselves. The loans may be good or not good.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Have you quantified the bank's domestic losses?

[al-Yusif] Yes. It is our belief that such losses will be taken into consideration.

[AL-MAJALLAH] When do you expect the bank to resume operations and what are the major impediments it faces?

[al-Yusif] The bank has resumed operations since it reopened and certain departments find it necessary to work continuously and incessantly. Our current thrust is to restart factories that were not completely destroyed, but lack only capital or spare parts. The water company is such a facility. We are currently doing a comprehensive assessment of the damages it incurred as a prelude to resuming production. The bank and factory owners calculate that full production will resume by next November.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Will bank strategies be revised because of current conditions in Kuwait?

[al-Yusif] There are committees that prepare reports to state officials on the extent of damage to the industrial sector. The reports will not cover facilities that received no loans from the Industrial Bank, but we are ready to do so if asked by the authorities.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you expect the next budget to have a deficit?

[al-Yusif] The budget for 1991 will differ from that for 1990. All companies will be asked to prepare two-year budgets and commit to them.

I can not give accurate information on the deficit but I hope that the Industrial Bank will be able to meet any

shortages by pursuing its general strategy and by taking future action appropriate to paying off debt.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does the bank have any relevant forecasts?

[al-Yusif] Of course. Our strategy includes a plan for the treatment of existing loans. Borrowers will be asked to repay but we are taking current conditions into consideration. When [debt] is rescheduled or forgiven in total or in part, the action will be covered by a legal umbrella and will be cloaked in a legal form appropriate to conditions in the country [?].

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you anticipate that the bank will borrow on the market?

[al-Yusif] The Industrial Bank of Kuwait was the first bank to issue debentures and we remain able to do so, conditions permitting. We enjoy the precedence of being the first bank in Kuwait to issue bonds for borrowing on the domestic market. The bank will supply credit on concessionary terms since the government loans its receives mandate that it provide concessionary industrial loans and low-cost individual loans.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is the value of the bank's industrial sector loans?

[al-Yusif] We offer two types of credit. Concessionary loans for building factories and capital-financing loans at commercial rates [sic]. Both types have a combined value of \$170 million.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Has the bank considered the possibility that its loans may be non-performing in current markets?

[al-Yusif] We have prepared more than one scenario for non-performing loans by rescheduling debt or forgiving it in total or in part. Such scenarios would depend on the terms of government credit to the bank. We have received two government loans. The bank currently has 100 million dinars remaining of the first loan; and of the second loan also. We repaid 14 million and 186 million remain outstanding.

The authorities have made a decision on [loan] forgiveness but the bank can not do that alone. The country has been through rough times and its facilities, including the industrial sector, have been completely plundered. All loans to the banking system will be generally covered [?] but we have yet to receive any guidelines from the central bank. We will follow whatever instructions we are given.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What loans have been given to facilities being rehabilitated?

[al-Yusif] We focus on factories able to operate and produce anew. Since labor and raw materials are in short supply, we follow parallel paths that focus on the procurement of raw materials and opening the necessary credit facilities. This is in addition to spare parts, the

disbursement of some funds to employees, and maintenance operations only [?]. All this is offered in accordance with industrial sector priorities at a time when other sectors and industries face extinction.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Any estimate of reconstruction loans to be offered by the bank?

[al-Yusif] We have received applications from a number of companies and factories, including a cleaning [garbage removal?] company that requested a loan for such a purpose. I say that the loans will be offered in accordance with lending priorities.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How do you view the central bank strategy for bank operations at the present time?

[al-Yusif] I believe that the central bank has devised a good plan in agreement with the various bank, each according to its capability. A first stage of interest to the bank was replacing the old currency with the new one and procedures for account deposits and withdrawals.

The banks are to take certain steps, one after the other. It must be clear, however, that the central bank strategy was discussed first with other banks until some sort of consensus emerged. Plans for the future are discussed at periodic meetings.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How will current conditions impact the type and volume of investment in Kuwait?

[al-Yusif] The answer to that question depends on conditions of stability not only in Kuwait, but in the region as a whole. I believe that there will be no capital flight under conditions of stability. Capital previously emigrated from Kuwait in the aftermath of the al-Manakh market crisis, but that capital returned because of stability and investor confidence in the fiscal and economic policies of the state. Capital, which is cowardly by nature, will undoubtedly emigrate in the short term but will return with the return of stability. Competent authorities in Kuwait and in the Gulf will focus on attracting capital and on establishing security and political stability in order to motivate new capital.

Industrialist on Restructuring, Redevelopment

91AE0482A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
20 Jun 91 p 10

[Interview with industrialist Khalid al-Fassam, by Wahib Ghurab and Muhammad Samman in Kuwait: "How Kuwaiti Industrialists Think About the Future of Their Industries in a Changed Market"; date not given—first five paragraphs are AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT introduction]

[Text] Kuwaiti industrialists returning to their country face many simultaneous problems. On the one hand, they find it difficult to resume their activity at a time when their factories have suffered enormous losses during the Iraqi invasion, the equipment of many factories having been completely looted. On the other hand,

bank credits and possible compensation are still unclear. They are returning to a market that will be quite different from what it was before 2 August in its needs and in its amount of consumption, given the decrease in population. Furthermore, there is the view that Kuwait must make do without certain industries that proved to be uneconomical before the Iraqi invasion.

How do returning industrialists think about the future of Kuwaiti industry? What difficulties do they face? What are their available funding sources. How big are the losses, and what means are there to overcome them?

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT met Kuwaiti businessman and industrialist Khalid al-Fassam. As an industrialist who owns three factories that suffered tremendous losses, he presented his point of view about the future of Kuwait's industrial sector.

The largest of the factories, a plastics plant located at Mina' 'Abdallah, was built and began production about 10 years ago. According to Khalid al-Fassam, it was completely looted on 1 September. Despite their large size, equipment and machinery were transported to Iraq. Raw materials, trucks, computers, and everything belonging to the factory was stolen. Damages at this factory are estimated at about 6 million Kuwaiti dinars.

The second of the factories, located at the port of al-Shu'aybah, produces digging clays. It suffered the same fate as the first factory, and its damages are also estimated at about 6 million dinars. The third of the factories is relatively small, and the amount of damage to it has not yet been determined. An employee locked it, and the company has therefore preferred not to try to open it until the proper security committees arrive to certify that it is free of mines and explosives. The Kuwaiti businessman's medicine chests were also looted and stolen, with an estimated loss of about 100,000 dinars.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What steps have you taken to resume your industrial activity?

[Al-Fassam] The first step is to tally and estimate the losses. In this area, we have gathered and salvaged whatever can be salvaged and have put things in order. The second step is to arrange contact with the Kuwaiti government to learn its intentions—will there be support, credits, or compensation? To date, no decision has been made on the question of compensation so that we can return to the scene again.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What role do you think the government should play to support businessmen?

[Al-Fassam] It should be quick about deciding and about considering support and compensation. It should make decisions quickly, because the time factor is very important if the private sector is to play its proper role in reconstruction. In particular, its losses will be a loss to the markets and an increase of expenses. Above all, it will complicate matters.

I hope that means will be found to find compensation as quickly as possible. Personally, I believe that lack of compensation will lead to the complete stoppage of industry in Kuwait and complicate the question of its return. It is difficult for a group of individuals or companies to come back without obtaining support or credits. I think this is a priority that the government should consider in coordination with international agencies and organizations.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are there contacts in the businessmen's sector to coordinate positions for confronting the current problems? What role will the Industrialists' Union play in this field?

[Al-Fassam] There are contacts. The Industrialists' Union ought to play a greater role in unifying reconstruction efforts within the businessmen's sector and avoiding errors that occurred before 2 August. This is even more important during the present phase.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Have you tried to finance projects through personal efforts or from other sources?

[Al-Fassam] As for my own industrial activity, I was able to obtain external funding for one of the factories I own. The American partner was able to size up the current situation, and in this way we succeeded in obtaining external funding from a Saudi bank, Bank al-Ahli. This was because the factory produces many substances used in extinguishing fires. The second factory is a joint stock company, and it is difficult for it to resume activity now.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What sum have you obtained from the Saudi al-Ahli Bank?

[Al-Fassam] We applied for a \$7 million loan, and it was approved.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are there contacts with the Kuwaiti banks?

[Al-Fassam] Initial contact has been made with the Industrial Bank, which is handling financing for the factory at Mina' 'Abdallah. It has made no decision yet about rebuilding, compensation, or what credits it will advance us.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In light of the present circumstances and changes in the market, are you considering changing your commercial or industrial activities, or expanding foreign investment, for example?

[Al-Fassam] I don't think so. Despite the circumstances we are experiencing, I still have no intention to change my activities. Naturally, one expects the domestic market to experience sluggishness because of the decrease in population. On the other hand, there is talk of great activity and important contracts in Kuwait. We must also bear in mind that the quality and strength of industry are the main criteria. Our industries have demonstrated their ability in this area. They have been able to enter the Hong Kong market in the past, which

indicates their quality and their ability to penetrate these markets, provided they can continue to maintain quality.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In light of the circumstances the industrial sector is experiencing, what industries should have priority?

[Al-Fassam] Industry in Kuwait is primarily in need of what is called diversification in the industrial field. Also, the industry that exists in the Gulf needs concentration of capital—in other words, large capital. Above all, it should rely as much as possible on chemical, petrochemical, food, and processing industries. When these things are taken into consideration, industry in Kuwait has great importance.

In addition, officials in Kuwait and the Gulf countries must set a strategy. By this I mean setting an allocation schedule for the sectors, both private and public, that contribute to industry.

These plans and strategies must involve coordination between the Industry Ministries in the Gulf countries, because now there is a great need for joint Gulf industry. In other words, industries in the Gulf should complement each other, so as to avoid the prevailing unhealthy competition between countries of the region.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is there now a need to reduce the number of factories in Kuwait?

[Al-Fassam] You can't set down a line of reducing the number of factories and follow it. On the contrary, there must be a good study of industry in Kuwait. Its primary goals should be to evaluate the problems in industry, establish final solutions for them, overcome all the obstacles that stand in our way, and classify industries that need merger, development, or expansion. I do not support the idea that the current period requires a reduction in factories. Rather, I support the idea that the current need is for study of the situation of existing industry, solving its problems, and classifying it. Plans for coordination between Gulf sectors should be made. This is popular and industrial demand in the region.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What role will industry play in the coming period in Kuwait?

[Al-Fassam] My view is simply that industry has a large role in all countries. This indeed applies to the current situation in Kuwait.

As but one example, human resources—people—are one of the most important points of departure that must be considered in industry.

In this regard, industry constitutes one of the most important means of caring for people and making them industrially productive beings. I think we have spent enough time in Kuwait piling up human resources in administrative jobs and wasting it in this area.

I mean that industry in Kuwait needs the people of this country to build and sustain it. Industry is capable of absorbing human resources and then using them to develop local production.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What has been the effect of the experience through which businessmen passed, those who stayed in Kuwait and those who were abroad? As a businessman, what experience have you emerged with?

[Al-Fassam] I think that a businessman is no different from any other Kuwaiti citizen. As for my personal experience, it confirms the need for us to follow the principle of self-reliance, strengthen our cooperation and our policy as Gulf countries, and above all develop our abilities.

Bank Governor's Assurance on Dinar's Strength

*LD18710889 London KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT
18 Jul 91*

[Text] Central Bank Governor Shaykh Salim 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sabah has stressed that the Kuwaiti dinar is still strong because the bank is following the same policy that was in force before the iniquitous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Shaykh Salim pointed out in a statement to the the Kuwaiti newspaper, AL-WATAN, published today, that the observed monetary policy is a balanced policy which aims to maintain the dinar's rate of exchange against other currencies. To confirm this, he said that the dinar's rate of exchange, in comparison with the dollar, reached 287.5 fils on 27 March, 295.5 fils in May, and then dropped to 292 fils this week.

He denied that there is any intention to change any of the local currencies, and that the dinar, in all its denominations, is widely available. He also said that there is no truth in the rumors about changing the 20 dinar denomination, withdrawing it from the markets, or reducing it in the local banks. Shaykh Salim also denied that there is any intention to reduce or increase the interest rate, assuring people that the laws in force before 2 August are the ones that still apply.

Engineering Director on Communications Facilities

*91AE0442B London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11 Jun 91 p 2*

[Interview with the director of the engineering administration in the Information Ministry, Jawad al-Mazidi by Ibrahim al-Sharqawi; place and date not given]

[Text] Although life has returned to normal and Information Ministry officials are making continuous efforts to compensate for the shortage stemming from destroyed and stolen equipment, some citizens are still complaining of unclear television and radio broadcasts in several areas.

In order to examine the major efforts being made to restore television and radio transmission to the level that existed before 2 August, and to become familiar with accomplishments in this regard, SAWT AL-KUWAYT interviewed the director of the engineering administration in the Information Ministry, Jawad al-Mazidi. Al-Mazidi takes up television and radio signal reception problems from a technical standpoint and future projects whose implementation the ministry has begun to pursue.

Al-Mazidi first dwells on the damage and losses incurred by radio and television broadcasting stations during the invasion. He states: During the period of the tyrannical Iraqi occupation, radio and television broadcast stations were subjected to heavy losses. Modern radio transmission equipment installed at the Kabid broadcast station was disassembled and stolen. The short-wave and medium-wave broadcast stations were destroyed with all of their installations. The modern transmission equipment installed before the invasion at the al-Muqawwa' medium-wave broadcast station was disassembled and stolen, and the station was completely destroyed. Regarding television, the television broadcast station at al-Matla' was destroyed and the television broadcast station at Filka was completely destroyed.

Transmitting Power

[Al-Sharqawi] What is the current radio and television transmitting power, and what are the boundaries of coverage?

[Al-Mazidi] At present, radio broadcasts are transmitted on a 540-kHz wave at a power of 10 kilowatts [kW] and on a 1341-kHz wave at a power of 10 kW, with coverage extending to the United Arab Emirates, in addition to the 87.9-MHz and 57.5-MHz FM waves, each having a power of 2 kW, for domestic coverage.

The 1134-kHz wave will operate soon with a power of 25 kW to increase radio coverage.

Television transmission power is distributed as follows:

Channel 8 operates at 5 kW with an effective emission power of 25 kW; channel 24 operates at 500 watts with an effective emission power of 8 kW; and channel 39 operates at 500 watts with an effective emission power of 8 kW.

Domestic television coverage includes the city of Kuwait and the populated residential areas, including al-Juhara'. The activation of other channels—channels 10, 5, and 13—in addition to channels 8, 24, and 39 is expected very shortly. The additional channels will increase coverage and provide an opportunity to broadcast more programs.

[Al-Sharqawi] When will radio and television coverage be restored to its previous level? What are the boundaries of coverage?

[Al-Mazidi] Regarding radio, early next year, God willing, two short-wave transmission apparatuses, each

with a power of 500 kW, will be installed for the broadcast of Radio Kuwait to distant areas of the world. In addition, two medium-wave transmission apparatuses, each with a power of 600 kW, will be installed to increase the area of medium-wave coverage. Radio transmission will be restored to what it was before, and moreover, it will be better, God willing, in the coming two years, when the short-wave and medium-wave radio broadcast station project at Kabid is completed.

Regarding television, a main television broadcast station is expected to be installed and activated in early 1992 at Filka. This station will make it possible to broadcast our first and second programs to coastal areas of the Arab Gulf states, including Iran.

Benefitting from Satellites

[Al-Sharqawi] We have noted that the ministry is installing a satellite transmission and reception system. Which programs have benefitted from it?

[Al-Mazidi] The world news is received, and sporting events and important events are broadcast. Also, the news and programs of the state of Kuwait are broadcast to different parts of the world. Our antennas are aimed at the Arab satellite (ARABSAT) and at the INTELSAT satellites.

[Al-Sharqawi] Some complain of unclear television reception in several areas. What is the reason?

[Al-Mazidi] It is attributed to a number of reasons, the most important being the weakness of the television signal at present in the reception area, or a failure to adjust the reception antenna so that it is aimed at the broadcast station to obtain the best picture. Also, the use of a signal magnifier (booster) without the installation of the proper filters distorts television reception, especially when the signal is strong in the reception area.

It is worth mentioning that some areas are insulated from the transmission antenna by high residential buildings, which weaken the signal in these areas.

[Al-Sharqawi] How many radio and television programs will be broadcast?

[Al-Mazidi] In addition to the general program, the second program, and the noble Koran, the broadcast of other radio programs will be resumed gradually, which are the European, Persian, Urdu, and FM stereo programs. Regarding television, in addition to the first and second programs, channel 3, which is designated for sports, summertime, springtime, and other programs, will resume broadcasting in the future.

[Al-Sharqawi] When will short-wave radio broadcasts resume?

[Al-Mazidi] The ministry has drafted a plan to resume short-wave broadcasting, so that it is better than before. This will occur in three stages. The first stage will end

early next year, and the next two stages will be implemented in the next two years.

[Al-Sharqawi] In your opinion, what are the best specifications for antenna installations?

[Al-Mazidi] The existing antennas fulfill the required purpose. However, care should be taken to aim the antenna precisely at the broadcast station and to tune the desired channel. Also, the antennas for receiving UHF channels should be for the fourth and fifth ranges, i.e., for channels 21 through 68, instead of for a frequency range limited to only the fourth range or the fifth range. Installation should be performed by specialists, and the distance between the reception antennas on the same mast should at least one meter.

Thefts

[Al-Sharqawi] Is there a possibility that some equipment that was stolen will be returned?

[Al-Mazidi] I have no information to that effect. However, if there is a return, we will subject all equipment returned to us to a thorough, precise inspection to ascertain its soundness before accepting it.

[Al-Sharqawi] Can you tell us about future projects?

[Al-Mazidi] The most important projects concern the improvement of radio and television broadcasting to better than it was before by establishing and completing broadcast stations at Kabid and al-Muqawwa' and television broadcast stations at al-Muqawwa', Filka, and al-Matla'.

Also, all transmission and production equipment in radio and television studios was either stolen or destroyed during the tyrannical Iraqi occupation. It is important to quickly supply and install the equipment needed by all of these studios, so that they can regain their former capacity.

Official Comments on Port Damage, Capacity

LD0806121191 London KUNA in Arabic 0927 GMT
8 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The director general of the general corporation of ports, 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad al-Nibari, has announced that the corporation would start large projects from scratch, which would be accompanied by the extension and modernization of some installations requiring repairs and construction; pointing out the extent of destruction and devastation caused by the unjust Iraqi aggression, the cost could reach a billion dollars.

In an interview with KUNA, al-Nibari, whose appointment as director general of ports was confirmed by an Amiri decree recently, said that the emergency plan made al-Shu'aybah port available in record time as a major port to receive all kinds of goods needed in the country.

The director general said the port of al-Shu'aybah was functioning at 80 percent of its operational capacity, explaining that this had nothing to do with the increased price of goods and that tariffs and fees had not been implemented so far; but there were conditions regarding the collection of goods immediately after their arrival due to the lack of storage depots.

Al-Nibari talked about the work in progress to repair al-Shuwaykh port, currently completely out of operation due to the grave damage, explaining that, despite the extension carried out before the invasion, there was need for a station specifically for handling containers to speed up the loading and unloading of containers to and from storage yards which must be directly connected with it. [passage omitted]

Regarding al-Dawah port, the director general said the port was not operational, that it was a small port which had been used for wooden ships from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that, despite its size, it was an important port for the importation of vegetables, fruit, some Iranian products, and fish. [passage omitted]

Electricity, Water Losses Total 800 Million Dinars

*LD2206105491 London KUNA in Arabic 0955 GMT
21 Jun 91*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 Jun (KUNA)—The minister of electricity and water, Ahmad Muhammad al-'Adasani,

has said that the ministry's total losses due to the unjust Iraqi invasion of Kuwait amount to 800 million dinars. Minister al-'Adasani indicated, in a statement given to AL-QABAS and published today, that the machinery and equipment of the ministry functioned during the whole period of occupation without maintenance, which very much affected operations. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the emergency plan for the recovery of electricity and water cost the ministry \$200 million, that is, nearly 60 million Kuwaiti dinars.

Al-'Adasani further said that there are fundamental repairs [under way] of the destruction caused in transformer stations and water distillation stations. These repairs will cost more than 250 million dinars. Regarding the distillation stations in al-Shuwaykh and al-Shu'aybah, they suffered great destruction; and to return them to their previous level of output, 150 million dinars are needed.

The Kuwaiti minister of electricity and water indicated that in addition to the above losses, there are other losses including the cost of electricity and water production during the period of invasion and the first three months after liberation. The cost of water production between August 1990 and May 1991 amounted to about 80 million dinars.

Al-'Adasani added that the cost of the production of electrical energy during the same period amounted to 130 million dinars. Consequently, the total losses of the Ministry of Electricity and Water amounted to about 800 million Kuwaiti dinars. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Future Security Arrangements

91P40347A London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Jun 91 p 2

[Text] Minister of Defense Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah stated that the unjust Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has divided the Arab states into two principle camps: those guided by truth, and those guided by falsehood to achieve their own interests.

The minister added, in an interview with the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, published yesterday in Cairo, that that the fracture produced by the Iraqi invasion is the basis of future conceptions of the defense of Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula as a whole. He stressed that "there is a need to cooperate with those who agree with us on the need to defend the truth and to defend Kuwait." Referring to Kuwait's small size, he added that there is no room for huge numbers of Egyptian, Syrian, and Gulf troops [to remain] there. He therefore expected that forces in Kuwait would be limited to 5,000 Egyptian troops and 2,000 Syrian troops.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah made it clear that the goal of maintaining symbolic Arab forces is to make Iraq, or any other threatening country, understand that there is a capable Arab force ready to face any unforeseen circumstances. Responding to a question on the American and British naval and air forces in the region, Shaykh 'Ali al-Salim al-Sabah said "that this presence was traditional, but now the situation has changed. British and American naval and air forces made it clear to Iraq that they were not limited to being a traditional force as in the past, but could also become active as a deterrent to Iraq, so that what happened last August 2, will not happen again."

The minister of defense denied that there is any Kuwaiti intention to place foreign bases on its soil. He said that the American presence in the Gulf will be air and sea power only. These forces will be in place to protect the security of the region as a whole, as is needed by Kuwait and the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

On the matter of President George Bush's proposal to limit arms sales to the countries of the region, the minister said: "We want there to be no weapons in the region as a whole, on the condition that this be applied to everyone." He referred to the Israeli presence and the danger it poses, and how this necessitates the acquisition of conventional weapons. He said that Kuwait will diversify the sources of its weapons so that the United States will not hold a monopoly on supplies.

The minister of defense stated that forces will be under a joint command with each force having a commander; as a whole, it will be subordinated to Kuwait, since the forces will be on Kuwaiti territory. He said that Kuwait will depend on its own cadres and superior technology, to counter the small number of Kuwaitis.

Changes in Army Personnel Reported

91AE0545A Jeddah ARAB NEWS in English 30 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Kuwait City, 29 Jul (AP)—The government has approved the forced retirement of 14 military officers in its first public step toward redressing the army's failure to cope with the Iraqi invasion, a Kuwaiti official was quoted today as saying.

Dhawi Al-Luthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, told the Arabic daily AL-WATAN that the dismissals were approved yesterday at a meeting of the Council of Ministers, made up of all 21 cabinet members.

"This step aims at developing the capabilities of the defense forces and reorganizing the military institution," Al-Luthman said.

He did not release any names, but said the discharged officers included majors, majors general and colonels. He said that all were forced to retire. The decision comes after a number of high-ranking Kuwaiti officers circulated at least two petitions saying they would quit if post-Gulf war restructuring of the military does not include leadership changes.

They are angry that Kuwait's 20,300-man armed forces failed to put up much resistance when Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's forces invaded last 2 Aug.

They could not have defeated Saddam's troops, but disgruntled officers believe that with better leadership they could have resisted long enough for world reaction to rise and made Iraq hesitate.

Instead, Kuwait was occupied for seven months before being liberated 26 February by allied forces.

The petitions have called for an investigation and removal, if necessary, of the army chief of staff, his senior staff and up to 20 generals and 75 colonels.

The Minister of Defense Sheykh 'Ali Sabah Al-Salim, previously said he wanted to force some officers from the military and "pump new blood" into the forces.

Asked if the United States was going to set up a permanent military base in Kuwait, Al-Luthman said: "We reaffirm what his highness, the crown prince, said in his speech at the opening of the National Council (that) the government will not hesitate to take any measures to protect Kuwait's internal and external security."

Death, Injury Occur From Abandoned Iraqi Weapons

*LD24071543291 London KUNA in Arabic 1451 GMT
24 Jul 91*

[Text] Incidents of death and injury resulting from misuse of weapons and ammunitions left behind by the Iraqi invasion forces after fleeing Kuwait continue, despite repeated warnings issued by the responsible security quarters to take precautions, to be on guard, and to hand them over.

The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry today issued a communique saying that one person was killed and two others injured as a result of playing with bullets they had picked up from a hotel in the eastern region. It did not point out when the incident took place.

The ministry reiterated its warning to citizens on the consequences of playing with the legacies of the Iraqi

occupiers, and urged them to inform about places where they were found in order to avoid the repetition of such incidents.

KUNA Begins Spanish-Language Service

*LD0208041291 London KUNA in Arabic 1612 GMT
1 Aug 91*

[Excerpts] KUNA here today began offering its service in Spanish, directed to the main news media in major Spanish cities. This service includes the translation of specific KUNA news into Spanish and then distributing it through FAX to major newspapers, radio, and television. This step came in the context of the close cooperation between KUNA, the Spanish Society of the Friends of Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti Embassy in Madrid. [passage omitted]

The FAX transmission of the service in Spanish will continue throughout August as part of a preliminary experimental stage. It will later be established from 1 September.

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